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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 69, 70

now Senator Mines made the statement, the one good thing that he saw was that there would be mandatory motorcycle safety courses, and in one place it says that, but then in another place it says that if you have a Class M operator's license prior to September 1, 2003, then you don't have to have an approved motorcycle safety course. So I...I guess I was hopeful as negotiations were going on that we could find something that all of us, whether we liked it or disliked it, could feel...at least not go home and not sleep at night, because we had something to work with. I feel very, very uncomfortable with this amendment. I don't think that I can vote for it, and I certainly can't vote for the bill with the amendment. I'm confused. I think the language in the bill is...has conflict after conflict, and I'm very concerned. And I did need to mention, too, Senator Smith has referred to the person, Rose White, from Triple A Nebraska on several occasions as being incredible as she referred to, in the hearings and other times, about drunk drivers and related to motorcyclists. And I want to read to you what Ms. White has at least sent to me, and I hope she has to the rest of the body. She refers to the fact...on another matter, I would like to correct a statement that has been mentioned during floor debate, in an effort to discredit our organization, which is Triple A Nebraska. I have been unjustly accused of making a statement comparing drunk drivers with motorcycle riders. I have a copy of the Transportation Committee hearing transcript for LB 69 and LB 70, prepared by the Clerk of the Legislature. A quick review of the transcript will show that I never mentioned drunk drivers during my testimony, nor did I ever attempt to make any comparison. At the conclusion of my testimony Senator Smith asked me one question: Do you see an unhelmeted rider as much of a danger to society and other drivers, as a drunk driver? My one word response was, no. And she says, a copy of the transcript available upon request. So there obviously is a misunderstanding on what Ms. White said, but I did feel that I needed, as a matter of the record, to put her interpretation of what she said in her testimony during that hearing. At this point, I would be opposed to the amendment and opposed to the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Johnson, your light is next.