

January 29, 1981

LB 207

I think is pretty basic. It has been proven that people, and especially young people, who have training in driving automobiles have less accidents. It just makes sense, and when you consider the really small cost, if you could even save two lives, three lives in a year, that would underwrite the cost in dollars and cents. That isn't the important thing. The important thing is that we have saved someone's life and it could be your life, one of you right in this Chamber. Remember that. It isn't just the person that is driving the car, it can be the other car. I think we are penny wise and pound foolish. I was just thinking, and I certainly don't have the particulars on it, but if each person in Nebraska who drives a car would save five gallons of gas and the cost of that would underwrite this program probably a hundred percent. I don't know but it would mean a lot, and you don't bother too much when you go up to the gas tank and put in or the gas pump and put in five gallons of gas. Think of it. With our record in Nebraska last year in fatalities, we'd better be doing everything possible that we can to save lives and I think this will help do it. There is no doubt in my mind. I ask you to support LB 207.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stoney. Senator Stoney...I don't see him at his desk. Senator DeCamp. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries, debate ceases, and, Senator Koch, you may close. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, the issue before us today is really a relatively simple one. We are talking about education. We are talking about safety. We are talking about the welfare of people. I have been in this body long enough to know that we have spent some monies I think are rather careless and you can't justify them. The facts are here, they are present. If the insurance companies didn't believe that this program had merit, they would not offer reduced rates to those who had it. The records show that those who have defensive driving, and that is the instruction, are also better drivers. There is no doubt about it but why should we confuse ourselves with facts when our minds are already made up. Now if you are concerned about the \$700,000, Senator Dwcrak has a bill we heard yesterday on driver's license, and if we can go another route, we can use that bill if you don't want to take it out of general fund. We can increase the license fees to \$10.00 from the present \$7.50. That excess