

February 4, 1981

LB 69

are many definitions of motor vehicles in the statutes, we decided that we must incorporate one of those definitions within the provisions of LB 69. Those are the committee amendments and I would urge that you adopt them.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, your light is on, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the committee amendments. The major one of the lowering of the age from "four" to "three" was an amendment I offered in committee and I just want to encourage you to support that. Quite frankly, I think when we start a new effort to restrict personal behavior such as this bill would provide for, I don't think we have to start with the ultimate but I think we start in a small way and see how it works and perhaps can expand it at a later date, and I think under the age of three that is the proper age to try to provide child restraint protection for our children, but I think once you get to the age of three, I think you are old enough that perhaps seat belts are applicable or that I think that is a better way to protect those children, and so my feeling is the committee amendment is important and I certainly encourage your support for them.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and thank you very much. I would like to accept all of the committee amendments. However, I feel it is important to share with the Legislature in the event of an impact, often a tot wearing a safety belt slides right out either over or under, and the medical experts believe that the magic time is when that child reaches 40 pounds of weight, when that child can then be safely restrained within a seat belt, and not many three year olds weigh 40 pounds. There are exceptions. There are some who do. But I would hesitate to have the age reduced from three to two. It is under the age four, which means three year olds. So I would ask that the committee amendments split that section out and I would accept the other committee amendments, but I would ask that we vote on it separately. It is important to add the section referring to vehicles into this bill, and I feel that that is a good committee amendment, but I would ask to have the age section taken separately since I do not agree with it. And the medical experts, those who have