

February 4, 1981

LB 69

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, I find this a very difficult vote and may not vote on the indefinite postponement bill because I would have to compliment Senator Marsh in bringing attention to the state the real value of child devices to restrain the child in an accident, and I feel this vote possibly puts the body in an embarrassing position because the bill as drafted I do not feel will work, and the one special circumstance that makes it impossible is a family that is going to travel for a four to eight hour trip. We are saying by law as is presently drafted in this bill that they will be strapped in a car for a period of possibly as high as four to eight hours with a family that is traveling across the state. Now if any parents strap their child in a seat in a home for four or six or eight hours, I am sure that the body would agree that that was child abuse and look at that very seriously. You cannot do that with small children. We traveled across the state several times every year when our children were small and usually after a few hours of travel we could lay them down and they would go to sleep in the car, and we had a very peaceful period of travel. But a child cannot, a two and three year old cannot sleep on the trip across the state in a restraint device and this solely, as a problem that goes with the bill, is enough that I do not feel we can pass the bill in its present form. I have an amendment coming up later and I am not going to vote on the kill motion, which would strike the penalty clause which makes it a classified misdemeanor. I would support even an appropriation to make these devices available to families that do not have the money to buy them, because I think promotion of this is really important by this body, that we are not put in a position where the public will feel we don't think the devices are worthwhile because where it works for them on the shorter trips and where an individual...where it works it is beautiful to have the device and everyone should have a restraining device with these small children because part of the time they will work, they would save lives. But to enforce and make a crime on a trip where the family has to let the children go to sleep is very bad law. So I am going to pass on the kill motion and hope that we might adopt the bill in some way that I could vote for it because in no way would I