

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the more we discuss it the more complicated it becomes. I can agree with Senator Nichol in regard to the aircraft. You know I recall very vividly, guys that used to work for me and I, myself, sometime used to get kind of a kick out of flying down the highway with a helicopter and watching the traffic slow down and being the bad guy, but I still have to oppose Senator Maresh's amendment and I think it is unfortunate because we should not become a nation where we have to fear our government and it is getting to be more and more that situation all the time. I think that, you know, Senator Carpenter one time, Jerry Warner just reminded me of this, had an amendment that every state vehicle ought to have cherries on top of it so that as a deterrent we would think it was a patrolman. You know you can go from one extreme to the other. I think that Senator Goodrich and Senator Chambers made some good points. I think that our Highway Patrol wants to have a good positive image, one which says we are out here to patrol the highway, to protect you, to give you service and to enforce the laws. I do not think they like to think of themselves as being out there for the purpose of entrapment. I think they like to be visible to encourage us to obey the law. The other smacks to me of the other point of view which says well we are going to catch some unwary person at 67 miles an hour and drag him into court. I don't think that is what we should be doing. I think it is wrong. I think more than anything it helps to add to the suspicion of government. I don't think it is good. I think we ought to have a positive image of our law enforcement people rather than a negative one. I think this would contribute substantially to a negative impression of a very fine organization and I would have to, therefore, oppose Senator Maresh's amendment and hope that you would not adopt it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, very very briefly this time, the State Patrol currently does not have enough people or cruisers to do the job that has been accorded them now. If you are going to take from the existing marked cars, unmark them, then you are further restricting the Patrol. On the other hand, to do something like this and make it effective and I am opposed to it, but just looking at the cost of it you couldn't afford to do it. Right now if a patrolman is in a cruiser, any violation of the law that occurs, he or she can deal with it. You are