

from 65 to 55 miles per hour. It does not deal with the question of the Governor's discretion. That question will be dealt with on the second amendment when Senator Goodrich presents his proposal so the amendment before you right now simply does one thing and that is reduce the speed limit from 65 to 55. I would remind you that in the bill in its present form we have reinstated the old penalties so the lenient penalties which created what we termed the grace period or a grace ten mile an hour zone which was essentially no penalty, that is gone now. The stricter penalties are in the bill. So if you vote in favor of this amendment you are voting for a 55 mile an hour speed limit with the strict penalties. If you do not vote for the amendment then it will be 65 miles an hour with the strict penalties. I don't want to take a lot of the Legislature's time again rehashing all of the arguments that we discussed last week with regard to the pros and cons of 55 versus 65. I would simply say for myself that it is not going to disturb me whichever way we go on this question, greatly. I think the arguments on balance are fairly close at this time but I would simply remind you of the point I made last time which I think is true, that the arguments on balance over the next ten to fifteen years are going to become stronger and stronger in favor of the 55 mile an hour speed limit. I think that is going to happen because there is already considerable energy savings because of the speed limit. As we change over to smaller cars the smaller cars will affect greater energy savings at a 55 mile an hour speed limit so you can expect those energy savings to increase significantly. Secondly, as the cars get smaller I think the safety problem is exacerbated as the trucks stay the same size or become larger. So both, in terms of energy savings and in terms of safety, I really believe in the upcoming years that the arguments in favor of the 55 mile an hour speed limit will become stronger and that we might as well go ahead at this point and anticipate the future and adopt the 55 mile an hour speed limit right now. So I would ask you to vote in favor of the amendment.

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Senator Newell, we are speaking to the Beutler amendment.

**SENATOR NEWELL:** Mr. President, I must rise to oppose the Beutler amendment. Senator Beutler's desire for I guess, not only uniformity but strict enforcement is a very laudable goal and I just want to say that frankly that we do have enforcement at 55. There is a ten dollar fine. We do not lose points. The whole question of points is one