

have here in the State of Nebraska which is already the highest in the nation, it means an additional burden to the citizens here in the State of Nebraska. For those that are interested in energy conservation we know that driving at a lesser rate of speed conserves on this precious fuel and those that are interested in the safety factor, we know from reports that this also is beneficial. Now I circulated earlier and think that it should be a matter of record, some information that deals with this particular issue and I would like to take about thirty seconds to read it into the record. This information came from the Department of Transportation and it reads as follows: Since the establishment of the 55 mile per hour speed limit in January of 1974 the Department of Transportation has been compiling facts and figures to show the effects of the law. Those figures show Americans not only are saving fuel, they are saving lives by driving 55. Americans conserve an estimated 9,000,000 gallons of motor fuel a day by observing a lower speed limit. This is according to Department of Transportation estimates. In a year, ladies and gentlemen, that savings can be 3.4 billion gallons and that would be enough to keep all cars, trucks and buses in our country running for two weeks and if compliance with the law reached 85%, Americans could increase fuel savings to 4.9 billion gallons per year. Now again the Department studies shows that cars get 17% to 40% better gas mileage at 55 than they do at 70 miles per hour. Generally the smaller and more fuel-efficient the car, the greater the fuel savings at 55 and it has already been mentioned that the manufacturers here in the United States, and we know formerly the foreign manufacturers are building and constructing smaller cars for the public's use. Since driving for fuel economy requires close attention to the business of driving, fuel-efficient drivers are also safe drivers. The Department again estimates a minimum of forty-five hundred lives are saved each year because of the 55 mile per hour speed limit. First, when overall speed is reduced, drivers have more reaction time to avoid an accident and the force of the impact is greatly reduced. Second, the limit imposes a more uniform rate of traffic flow and it reduces potential conflicts and the likelihood of a crash and for those that are interested in safety and injury, in an address to the American Medical Association, Dr. Simon Horenstein of St. Louis School of Medicine said that spinal cord injuries have been reduced 60% to 70% as a result of the 55 mile per hour speed limit. The American Epilepsy Foundation reports the limit is the single, most effective preventive for new cases of epilepsy because it has reduced by ninety thousand each year, the number of head trauma injuries