

February 17, 1981

LB 69

PRESIDENT: You have half a minute, Senator.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you. The other parent says, the government should not, would not set up to be guardians and save everyone. The people out there, the silent majority is speaking. Thank you, Howard Lamb. Are we going to listen? Thank you, Mr. President. I ask you not to advance LB 69.

PRESIDENT: Before we go on to the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce some guests of Senator Richard Peterson, Doris Bellin and Betty Amen from Norfolk. They are under the south balcony. Would they stand up and be recognized by their Legislature. Welcome to your Legislature. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, like all these tough bills where government steps in and does something, we have to look at the complete picture and do our balancing act. Now I got up and I opposed this bill in the form it was brought in, and I highlighted the areas where I thought it would give trouble. One of those areas had to do with pickups because pickups are primarily used, particularly in the country, as work vehicles and it would be a great inconvenience. I am looking at the picture, I said the balance there in imposing this is worse than the problem it will probably solve because the pickup most of the time is used to go out in the country, one thing or another, go into the fields. It would just be inconvenient. I looked at the penalties and I said, the penalty structure, the way it is in the bill, probably will be pretty much unenforceable and unworkable, more of a hassle and harrassment than a solution. And so we changed both of those things, and I think one of the newspapers said, well, we watered down the bill. I think what we did and what we have now is a bill that basically says, in the vast majority of passenger cars traveling across the state and being used for transportation there is a danger and a risk that is pretty significant and it is killing X number of children...killing X number of children per year, and we said, from studies from Tennessee and wherever this particular solution costs X number of dollars and it will save 73 or 74 or whatever percent of the children in this particular class that are being killed. And so where you are now is simply balancing whether the number of lives saved justifies this cost over here and the enforcement will probably be minimal in terms of harrassment, because about the only time it is ever going