

February 17, 1981

LB 69

SENATOR CHAMBERS: My time is almost out. I think I would be hypocritical if I would use that as an excuse not to vote for a bill that does have some merit. There is rarely a bill that comes across this floor which will give every member everything that he or she would like to see the bill offer. However, we take what we can get. And sometimes, as in school, we go from that which is simple to that which is more complex... (interruption).

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...we will take what we can at this point and then maybe on Select File we can get more or maybe next year. But I wish you would reconsider and maybe find it in your heart to help protect those children who are still protectable under the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I support LB 69. I did the other day when it was introduced. Senator Haberman made a strong point for education, and certainly, education is good. But if we are going to do that, why don't we use education instead of statutes to stop murdering other people? Or why don't we use education to stop stealing? Or use education to stop speeding instead of statutes in these cases? Or to stop rape? I could go on with a hundred illustrations of where we have statutes because education hasn't done the job, and I think this is a very similar example. Education is great, but you have to put some teeth in it. And I see the bottom line is what has been said many times, restraints will save lives. You know it and I know it, and I do hope you will support LB 69.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LB 69? Senator Marsh, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Historically, we have statistics which show that when a child restraint law is passed, there is increased compliance. That is the point we are talking about. Several persons have mentioned that it is difficult to enforce. We all know that most Nebraskans are law abiding citizens and want to comply with state law. We also know that this is only one of the ways in which we can help save lives. We need to continue working in other areas. We need to continue to have hospitals provide seat restraints for the newborn infant to go home safely from the hospital. We need to