

April 2, 1981

LB 483

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I compliment Senator Maresh for bringing this meritorious piece of legislation to our attention. I imagine next year Senator Landis will come in with a license bill and one that these people should wear helmets. Senator Cope will want several mechanical bulls for the Kearney Safety Center so that we can dry run this a couple times. The University will want a couple hundred thousand dollars to research the issue. Senator Schmit will come in wanting to absolve the liability for the tavern owners. I think we have started a whole new chain reaction. We could maybe create a whole new bureaucracy on this issue. I read an interesting little article last night that indicated that government rules and regulations from the time the cow starts in the pasture till the time we get it at McDonald's there is something like forty-one thousand government rules and regulations to protect us and preserve our safety on consuming that particular hamburger. I think we have to recognize and accept the fact that it is not our responsibility to protect every citizen against every contingency. We can not do it if we wanted to. We have no business trying to do it. We need to let people live their lives. This is something that somebody goes into with total free will, total free volition of his own and I think that we need to keep a degree of common sense on it and reject the Senator Maresh's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I guess first to Senator Dworak, the Nebraska Safety Center at Kearney specializes in highway safety, not the bull that you are talking about. Second, I think it is a good amendment and I would suggest that any bar or any tavern have plenty of insurance if something does happen. I think they are liable to start on. Think about a store where a person is shopping and somebody drops a banana skin on the floor. Another person slips on it and breaks a leg, who is responsible? You know who is responsible, the store, and they get sued. So whether it is a mechanical bull or any other danger that might happen within the premises I think they are liable and I think it would be a good thing. What will make someone very brave with two or three drinks and breaks his neck or his leg and I guess what bothers me most, I don't feel sorry for him, he is a nut to be on it, but the fact that we probably are going to be paying welfare and all the benefits to his family and I am dead set against paying taxes for that, so I am with you, Senator Maresh, all the way.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis.