

April 7, 1981

LB 35

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has ceased. Senator Vickers, do you wish to close on the advancement of LB 35?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, I think this issue has been discussed pretty well but once again I would remind you that as the introducer of this bill I have got a number of letters, probably more letters than I have ever got on any other issue with the exception of school reorganization perhaps, and I have got, I think, one or two from people who have said that the program, they were satisfied. The vast majority of the people of the State of Nebraska, I think, recognize the fallacy with this program. I don't think that means that they are willing to put junkers on the highways, that they are willing to have more traffic fatalities. I think what it means and what it says quite simply, is that we don't like government regulation that does not work and I suggest to you that this has not worked. The statistics that I passed out to you, and I didn't quote them before, but the statistics indicate that from 1959 to 1968 the number of accidents per million miles travelled was 4.0. That is before the inspection program went into effect. The ten year period, '70 through '79, the number of accidents per million miles travelled after the program went into effect was 4.0 which indicates to me that it has not made any difference. It has not worked. Now I appreciate some of the comments that some of the people have indicated that perhaps the Safety Patrol would be overworked, that perhaps the Safety Patrol would not be able to do it. Some people made the comment that they had not run into a spot check for a long time. Well of course not because we have got this other program. The Safety Patrol has not been doing it but I have talked to Colonel Kohmetscher and he indicates to me and I think any of you could visit with him. He would tell you the same thing, that they do have the manpower and they will be happy to do it and they will do it. Now obviously as somebody indicated, they are not going to stop all the traffic on I-80 through downtown Omaha at rush hour but they certainly could stop traffic on one of the exits and catch a lot of them at that point. That is the way they used to do it and I think that is the way they will do it again. That is the way I expect them to do it. Mr. President, I would like to yield part of my time to Senator Chambers in closing and let him finish the closing.

SENATOR CLARK: You have two minutes.