April 28, 1981

LB 35 and in supporting the DeCamp amendment I continue to support LB 35. We should not lose sight of the fact that the amendment says that as of July, 1982 the existing safety inspection law ends, it is gone. It is not as though the amendment would substitute a study for the repealer. The amendment very simply says, we will delay the repealer from today's date literally because the bill has got an emergency clause on it, to July of 1982, and in the meantime there will be a careful examination of the motor vehicle safety inspection program laws and the like. And this very body, it will not be a new body and will not be a new Legislature, it will be this body that may decide it would like to retain the program or modify the program, or to do something else. But the point is... the point is, the DeCamp amendment doesn't necessarily breathe new life into a failing program, it merely delays the repealer date. Now why do I support the amendment? Have I become one of those persons who has become weak at the knees, afraid of dealing away with the governmental bureaucracy as the language is? Is that what it is, as Senator Dworak would say? Or is it that I want to carry water for my Republican Governor friend so he is not faced with that difficult choice of vetoing this bill, as Senator Beutler would suggest? No, my motive is really fairly simple, because I am just a simple legislator. I happen to know some of the inspectors. I happen to know some of the people that work for the Department of Motor Vehicles. Why? Because I am a Legal Aid lawyer, and over the years I have had to deal with some of the folk that go out and inspect the garages that conduct the inspecting or do some training, and they came to me during Easter break and they said two things to me that were important. The first thing that they said was, we never got to testify. We were directed by our superiors not to provide any testimony to the Public Works Committee on this bill and so we never got to tell our story. And I said, yes, Jack, what story would you have told? What is the story? What is the point that you want to make? And they said, well you know, Vard, you know how over the years you, as a lawyer, have been able to use the failure of used car dealers to properly affix a sticker and to properly conduct an inspection as some lever, as some lever at being able to get behind those crumby transactions that some of those car dealers engage in in selling junk to low income people...and that is a story that we never got to tell. And I said, boy, you know, you are absolutely right because, colleagues, here is a simple truth. In Omaha there is a lot of junk being peddled to low income people and transportation is a necessity notwithstanding that we have a bus system, it is a necessity. And when this junk is peddled, it is sold as is for a high price. People can't afford the

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