

April 30, 1981

LB 76

South balcony here from Senator Chambers' District 42 fourth grade students and five adults from Hillside Elementary School and include Miss Pamela Nordine, Ms. Alice Gilmore, Mr. Eddie Chambers, which is Senator Chambers' brother, Ms. Barbara Gates, Ms. Betty Start. They are teachers and they are up here in the South balcony. Welcome to your Legislature. Now the Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would just like to ask Senator Chambers a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, would you respond to a question from Senator Higgins?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Chambers, do you have an alternative to Senator DeCamp's bill?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Sure. They just voted it down.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, I mean have you got any proposal to stop the children from stealing cars, from racing cars? I am sincere in asking this. I am not being facetious. I am not putting you on. Senator, I would really like to know a plan that will put a stop...would you prefer putting them in jail or reform school the first time they do it?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let me answer the question in the context of the bill we are discussing. The vast majority of these chases don't involve stolen cars or crimes. So if we would cut out the chases that are for traffic and misdemeanors, minor infractions, we would cut out over ninety percent of the chases. That is what the amendments I was offering were attempting to do. With that out of the way, the law enforcement officers who fritter away so much time on those inconsequentials could give their time to the law enforcement matters that you are talking about, and maybe if the young people stop perceiving the police as enemies, then there would be a way for these officers to come into communities and talk to the children and they could persuade them, not try to threaten them into not doing things because that is like a challenge. But we have to get to the root of the problem and since this is a high-speed chase bill, what I want to do first is take away conduct by the officers that would tend to encourage the young people in thinking that this kind of conduct is all right for them, too.

SENATOR HIGGINS: But my question is this, are you saying