

April 30, 1981

LB 76

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The amendment is adopted. Senator Beutler, do you want to move it ahead?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I move that it be returned to E & R.

PRESIDENT: Motion is to return LB 76 to E & R for engrossment. Any discussion? All those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed nay. LB 76 is advanced to E & R for engrossing. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers moves to return LB 76 to Select File for a specific amendment. That amendment would read as follows: (Read Chambers amendment found on pages 1651 and 1652, Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Higgins and Senator DeCamp, this amendment is as reasonable a thing as you can have. We are talking about the densely populated areas where a very trivial offense is involved, where because of the circumstances defined in the amendment there may be hazards created by the chase itself, and when the identity of the pursued individual becomes known, then the chase is abandoned. You can find this amendment on pages 1035 and 1036 of the Journal because it would be Section 19 of the large amendment that you just voted down. So I am offering that amendment for your consideration and I have other parts of that long amendment that I am going to try to take one at a time because maybe the amendment as a whole was too much to ask the Legislature to accept. And I realize that we are at the time in the session when the people are busy and don't have time to read but I felt that since this was such a serious issue and it is literally killing people and destroying property something might could prevail on the Legislature to do something about the problem. I have no choice other than to hammer on this issue as long as chases occur in this state in the way they do, private, innocent third party citizens are endangered, the person in the pursued vehicle is endangered, and even the officers are endangered. There is something in the Legislature's mentality collectively which produces a blind spot on this issue so that the concern usually shown for law enforcement officers suddenly goes out the window. Many times people must be saved from themselves. When Senator DeCamp was talking about an earlier issue on this bill, the bullets and the things like that, he had mentioned the Dukes of Hazard syndrome, the kinds of things that people see on television, and others of you have talked about it that glamorize these chases but what usually