April 30, 1981

is not shown on television is the death and havoc that occurs in real life. So the Legislature should adopt a policy that tells the officers what it is that ought to be done and what ought to be avoided. We cannot say that the laws are being properly enforced, that respect for the system as a whole is being upheld when for a trifling cause officers create a greater danger and hazard to the public than the individual they supposedly are trying to apprehend. That trooper who is dead, decaying in a grave now, and left a widow and some children would still be here had somebody used some common sense which the Colonel doesn't have, which the troopers who chased the youngster didn't have, which the Legislature as a whole does not have. We have to tell these people that the Legislature does not require them to be fools, that they do not have to risk their and other people's lives for trifling matters. I think that when a matter is as serious as this and the Legislature is so blind, so hardhearted, then bitter words have to be spoken to at least make a record. and maybe somebody can go to court and show how all these matters were discussed by the Legislature and that the Legislature refused to assume its responsibility, that it was made clear in public debate that the officers were not exercising good judgment and it was known, and in the case of a lawsuit, maybe these things will help a person win, and maybe if enough lawsuits are won, the court will again assume the responsibility that the Legislature will not, in the same way that it has to run the public schools in Boston. It had to create a situation where black children could get some kind of a fair chance in education in Omaha. It had to order the Omaha Police Division to stop discriminating against black police officers. Then the courts are going to have to step in and legislate again for the welfare of the people. Then there will go up a great outcry from the Legislature about the courts and the judges doing what they ought not do. The courts are forced to act when the Legislature will not. So on this amendment that I am suggesting all it says, really, stripped of all of the verbage that specified these situations, don't do something which is stupid and which needlessly endangers people's lives over some trifling nonsense. That is what the amendment says. Unfortunately that kind of direct language cannot be put in a statute and be considered enforceable law. So I hope you will consider the amendment, and regardless of how you may feel about me, look past me to your own children and this is one of those cases, maybe because our children don't have as many cars, maybe they don't run as much, but where the vast majority of the children killed are white. I just thought of something. This is a good way to equalize the population odds. You are killing up your children, not mine. Why should I care more about yours than you do?

4182