

convictions and point losses occurs with regard to someone who has not attained the age of 18, then they are required, as I understand it, to go back through a driver's education course. And I assume this would be regardless of whether they had already been through a course or not. But what my amendment does is drop the reference to age 18, so that any person who had been driving erratically and poorly and ignoring our laws, any person who had lost that number of points should go back and get a driver's education course. In fact, it probably is more important for older drivers in the sense that most of those have not had any driver's education, whereas under this bill some of those who are not yet 18 may already have had the course. It seems to me that there are two different kinds of problems we're working on here. One is the exuberance of youth, and no amount of driver's education is going to change what happens because of that. And the other is knowledge and being sure that everybody has the requisite kind of knowledge. In this particular case it seems to me that if you have somebody violating the law then, whether you're 18, or whether you're 35, or 65, the law ought to apply to you. It's different from a situation where you don't know how an individual is going to react to his driving experience. In this instance you know they've reacted poorly, and you ought to have the same law apply, regardless of their age. And that's all this amendment would do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bernard-Stevens, do you wish to speak to this amendment?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Madam President, just briefly. I'm not sure if Senator Beutler and I are in agreement on the bill. We haven't talked about the bill in general. I am opposed...I'm going to be opposing the bill, so people know where I'm coming from. But as other members of the body, from time to time say, sometimes it's good to offer amendments to make a bad bill better. And this would, in fact, do that. If, in fact, we're going to begin setting policy, and we're talking about policy now of safety, in listening to Senator Kristensen we're talking about policies of protecting lives and people on the road, I would think that this policy should be for all people. I know there are a lot of times that you might get new citizens in this country who may get into some problems on driving because it's just different from what they are driving...what they were used to in their country. And certainly driver's ed would be a good thing for them to take, if they fell in the categories on pages 4 and 5. I would think someone who would have their