

there is some rational basis for the exceptions contained in 60-1701 and whether these exemptions are in the public interest. These exemptions do not appear to be based on the safety or inherent danger of the particular object, rather the exceptions contained appear to have been...have their basis on considerations not readily discernible except for possibly the special interest of the owners of these vehicle classifications. What Senator Lamb is trying to do, I mean, talk about your urban-rural split, if I have a pickup truck in Omaha, I...I should wear my safety belt but if Senator Lamb has one out on the farm, he shouldn't. There is no compelling argument that why we should do this. The facts, as handed out to you, indicate exactly the opposite. Rural deaths are disproportionately high. Pickup truck deaths are disproportionately high. And to exempt them flies exactly in the face of what 958 tries to do. And 958 is exactly a safety bill. It is absolutely a safety bill in which Nebraskans' lives will be saved, injuries will be prevented and, indeed, as Senator Chambers pointed out, highway safety money dollars will also be saved. But when I introduced...when my staff and I worked on this bill, the provisions in the Highway Safety Act which were signed into law in 19...in December of last year, we were unaware of that argument, but it's a great argument and it brings some people onto this bill, but the real reason for 958 is safety.

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR HORGAN: And Nebraska should not be in the minority of states that does not have a safety belt law, because we know, categorically, that if people wear their safety belts, their lives will be saved and their injuries will be less and that's why 958 needs to pass. I would encourage you not to adopt Senator Lamb's amendment which will put those people at risk in the rural communities of this state.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Horgan. To give the body a sense of order, the next light is Senator Bohlke and then Senator Wehrbein, Lindsay, Nelson, Chambers, Crosby, Rasmussen and Landis. Senator Bohlke, please.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. Speaker and members, Senator Lamb, I really can't believe that you are serious with this, because you know very well that a number of farmers do not live within a quarter of a mile of the farm. Actually, some farmers actually live in