

urban areas the mail carriers are employees of the Postal Service, and as such they are equipped and have vehicles that have right-sided steering wheels and so they are able to stay in their vehicle, stay belted and deliver the mail. And rural carriers are contracted usually using their own vehicle or at least using a vehicle that is left steering wheeled and, therefore, they go from post...mail box to mail box and are sliding over all the time putting the mail in. And so the U.S. Postal Service has a mandatory seat belt regulation for all their employees but they do not require the rural mail carriers because of that factor.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then, Senator Horgan, when it comes to rural letter carriers the concern for safety takes a back seat to convenience?

SENATOR HORGAN: I...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Isn't that what we would have to conclude?

SENATOR HORGAN: I...I think you can make that argument and it would be difficult for me to argue against that, but it was...the reason it was put in the bill was because that's the way the bill was drafted in '85. That's the way other states do it. It seems to, you know, it was really a concession to my rural colleagues because of the problem that exists with these contracted employees of rural mail carriers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But if you're concerned about safety and you know that people such as myself and I'm sure others on this floor and many people who are citizens of this state don't want such a bill at all, why are you going to disregard how we feel and yet placate a relatively small group of people for their convenience? Why is that if safety is a concern? It begins to make it appear that it's not a question of safety at all, that a bill is to be passed for reasons other than those given to justify its passage. I think adoption of this amendment would lend some consistency but it would also place on these letter carriers the onerous burden, if such it be, that you're willing to place on everybody else in disregard of how they feel about it. This bill is saying that the government knows better than anybody out there how they ought to drive their car and, better than that, they're going to make this person who drives responsible for what other people in that car won't do. When Senator Lamb offered his amendment, Senator Horgan voted against