

March 6, 1996

LB 901

entrance ramp that was the exact same at every interchange, in some it would be unnecessary, for others it would be inadequate. So the issue is out there, but it's a matter of what the Department of Roads is going to have to do when the speeds are established by this body as to what they do with each individual ones. Quite frankly, as you get higher volumes as you move east, is where you're going to have to make some of those adjustments. But going back to our original policy, the committee decided to set a speed that was designed for the entire state except when you get to Harrison Street, and we relied on the study that the Department of Roads gave out to us, that from there to Iowa, which is the Douglas County line, it should be a lower speed. For the rest of a state, as a general rule, that that was roughly where people were traveling and that that would be an acceptable speed...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...providing there were the penalties to enforce it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Engel amendment. I don't know of any issue in rural Nebraska, certainly not in my district, that has generated more interest than LB 901 or the changing the speed limits in the state of Nebraska. And I was, quite frankly, surprised at the number of individuals that said, just don't do anything, leave it where it is. I would say it's almost 50 percent of the people who have talked to me in my district and I've talked to a lot of people on this issue, as I'm sure everyone else has. And so I have said that I would go for a five mile per hour increase on three conditions, that it was more stringently enforced, and that the fines were increased, and I forget the third (laughs). But I guess the point I want to make is that 75 is rather fast on the interstate. I'm one of the few individuals that drives a truck, one of those eighteen-wheelers. They've got big motors, they go just as easy as cars, they really do. But I don't think their stopping ability is quite as good as some people like to make you believe. And I admire the Nebraska Motor Carriers, the truckers association, for being opposed to increased speed limits.