

begun its discussion on, Mr. President. The amendment is...well, it's your amendment you offered earlier, Senator. (FA490 is found on page 1064 of the Legislative Journal.)

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** We are discussing the Engel amendment. Senator Kristensen, your light is on.

**SENATOR KRISTENSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As we begin to start this afternoon's discussion on the speed limits, the policy choice that is before the body at the present time is that of going from 75 mile an hour on the interstate down to 70. The items that we did discuss in committee certainly were what sort of speeds are necessary for the state of Nebraska, and I think there were some references made to what other states are doing, and I want to go over that real briefly, the information I have, and I will certainly stand corrected if there is some late-breaking information, but right now Kansas has not been final as to what they are doing. They do have a House version, and a Senate version that, at least as of the end of February, which was a week ago, they were setting at 70, both versions, but that was not a final item, and that had not been worked out. South Dakota was final. They went to 75. Wyoming has gone to 75. Colorado has bills introduced in the Senate at both 70 and 75, but they don't have anything final. So in terms of what have other states done, obviously, the states to our west and north have gone to 75. Iowa has not done anything. I know the Governor has made some statements over there that he would only sign the Senate version, which was the existing 65, but I don't know that to be true, and I guess the old version is where does the West begin, and what do we need to do? The committee felt that an unlimited speed, because that was discussed, was a possibility, and that you could do something similar to Montana. The committee is fairly uncomfortable with the policy choice there because of the safety issues. Seventy-five, and I think if you do your own studies and so on, you will find that the average speed out on the interstate is that 72, 73 mile an hour. And I guess from our point of view, what was important was to set that speed at where people normally would drive; that if you set it more to what the actual speed was that there'd probably be more compliance. Is 70 a wrong speed? Absolutely not. If we go 55, we would be safer. If I could make you wear helmets when you would drive, you would be safer yet. It is a matter of balancing it. So this is a...this is one of the bigger policy choices. This