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SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President, and I know that Senator Kristensen is anxious to move the bill today so maybe the discussion on this amendment will not be lengthy, but I hope at least it's successfully received. The amendment that I'm offering simply allows, and I will emphasize the word "allows", a 65 mile an hour speed limit on all roads other than the interstate. Now, "allows" I believe is the operative word because we've heard before from Senator Kristensen's description of the bill that the Department of Roads has the ability to lower the speed limit in accordance with engineering and traffic studies if it is warranted. And I'm not, I'll be completely candid with you, I don't know if a 65 mile an hour speed limit is appropriate on all of the two-lane highways in the state of Nebraska. I don't know that. But I've handed out a map and this is from the Department of Roads and what it shows you is a system of roads, they're marked in colors anyway, the primary commercial system. Now, those are still two-lane highways, but they are significantly improved two-lane highways. Some of them, for example have eight-foot paved shoulders. They all have a 28-foot surfaced top. Now, they'll still have 12-foot traffic lanes, but they will have some shoulders and perhaps they'll even have 8-foot shoulders and, in addition, where they have the 8-foot shoulders I believe they also have an additional 2-foot of shouldering. So these are fairly wide roads. You can also see that some of these roads extend through the less densely populated areas of the state. If you want to look at Highway 2, Highway 20, maybe some of you are more familiar with Highway 34 down in the southern part of the state, these roads I believe it is entirely appropriate to travel 65 miles an hour on them, at least that would be my experience and I will state that that was my experience in 1965 through 1974, when the speed limit on those roads would have been 65 miles an hour. The other item that I think I want to call to your attention initially in the introduction is that at least for other segments of our highways we seem to be making an attempt to set the limits at the rates at which people are currently driving, that is despite 55 and despite the 65 mile an hour. If I read the study correctly that came from the Department of Roads, folks are traveling 63 miles per hour on the major rural