

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 24, 1999 LB 356

because that won't work for us. Because black people and Hispanics don't die anywhere in the numbers that white people do, so we'll say the number of miles traveled. How many of them die based on the number of miles traveled, so we will use that as a basis. Well, now let's say that when you check out black people and Hispanics, you say there is a death, and I'm using arbitrary figures, among black people and Hispanics, for every 100,000 miles driven, there are five deaths of black people, five deaths of Hispanics, three deaths of white people for 100,000 miles traveled; but then when you begin to look at how those miles are accumulated and you see white people are driving on the highway a far greater number of miles where there are virtually no likelihoods of an accident. So where are the black people and the Hispanics driving? Within the city primarily, where there is more congestion, more hazardous driving, and more opportunities to be in an accident. So if you drive fewer miles under more hazardous conditions, then you're going to have a higher rate of these accidents than people who drive their miles someplace else where there is not a likelihood of having the accidents. So, again, those kinds of statistics skew the issue, but you will notice when we want to document and can show by seeing how cases are handled, that black people and other minorities are discriminated in the criminal justice system, do you know what these same white people say? Well, we're not going to look at any statistics. Statistics don't have to do with anything. Yeah, you can show that more black people and other minorities are handled in a way different from the way white people are in the court system, but those statistics don't mean anything, and we're not going to change the way we do things based on those statistics. So those of us who are black see how statistics are used by white people only to achieve a predetermined end. We're talking here about more than statistics. I am talking about an increasingly worsening problem with reference to how police officers deal with black people, other minority groups, and poor white people in poor white neighborhoods. It is universal all over the country. For people to deny it means that they are putting on blinders and simply don't want to face this...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...serious problem. So without there being