

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

February 25, 1999 LB 356

proceed. I already know that in general there is a lack of concern in this Legislature, throughout the state, and the country for the welfare of the people that I represent. I got a call from a white woman this morning, I should have asked her what did you call me for, but I know why she called me. I've made myself accessible up to now. She said she gets panic attacks when she is belted in and she has a medical statement to that effect, but she said if this...if this form of the law goes into place, she expects to be stopped, and she'll have to constantly produce...keep producing this paper and she does not want to do so. What I should have done was told her, Madam, don't tell me your name, but if you tell me where you live, I'll tell you who your senator is and you call your senator and you tell your senator that because my colleagues...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...don't believe these things when I relate them to them. I handed out an article this morning, in case some of you all did not believe what I said about the young white kid who was going to be charged with felony murder but was not as a result of my efforts and intervention. This bill gives an opportunity for numerous matters to be discussed, and I'm waiting for a copy of that letter that Senator Byars read to us so that we can see the entire text of it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Maurstad, members of the Legislature, we first began debating this issue, as I recall, back in the early 1980s and, at that point in time, it was a less cluttered debate. On the one hand you simply had safety, and on the other hand you had freedom, and that still is essentially the debate. On the side of safety, it is complicated a little bit in that the costs of accidents, of hospital care, of taking care of people with head injuries and all that sort of thing is a cost largely borne by society these days, and so there is a societal interest there on the side of safety. It is not merely interfering with other people's lives. And that...that societal interest continues to grow in a number of ways as we invest heavily, for example, in the education of young people who are,