

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

February 25, 1999 LB 356

Senator Chambers and Senator Byars to respond to that. Senator Chambers gets the bill put off for a whole year. Senator Byars gets an opportunity to resolve Senator Chambers' concerns, and that would give us plenty of time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers, you're recognized for discussion on the bracket motion to LB 356.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, and when you read, members of the Legislature, the entire text of this letter that Senator Byars handed out, you'll see that far from being a ringing endorsement of mandatory seat belts, it expressed very strongly, and in some cases language as strong as mine, the concerns that the Urban League has about police harassment, the illegal stops, the searches, the seizures, under pretense of enforcing these laws. I hadn't seen this letter, but they also referred to a Supreme Court decision that I talked about yesterday, and I gave the name of it, Knowles v. Iowa, where the U.S. Supreme Court had to put some restrictions on what these cops could do. But those restrictions put on by the court deal with the consequences of one of these stops. Those decisions do not prevent the stops from occurring. Senator Byars and others on this floor do not pay attention to what I express as the concern I have--the unlawful stops; even if you don't get a ticket, the fact that it puts these cops in a position to stop you whenever they choose, and they can hang it on this notion of a seat belt law. As to what Senator Beutler offered, I am not interested in that. I am not trying to be what people refer to as hard-nosed with reference to Senator Beutler's offer. On another issue, it might be one that I would accept. But I don't want this bill to just get a free ride over to Select File. I want, if the Legislature is going to do this, I want the Legislature pay at least something in time here on the floor, because I am going to have to expend a tremendous amount of time and give a lot of energy dealing with the cases that I know are going to arise in Omaha, if a bill like this passes and the cops are given this kind of authority. So I intend to take the full eight hours on General File and I've got enough motions up there to do so. Maybe the body will decide that we ought to just end this thing, go ahead and kill it, but if that is not what is to be done, then it's going to pay the Ernie tax. I am going to