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LB 176

interfered with the fun and charm and entertainment of young people. I passed out a clipping from the Lincoln Journal, which I think puts this in the proper context. This clipping, which you should have before you, says the government and the world's leading manufacturers of personal watercraft asked the industry to limit speed of so-called jet skis to 65 miles per hour. Then it refers to the manufacturer, leading manufacturer of jet skis took the lead by announcing this voluntary compliance program and challenged the industry to limit the speed of jet skis to 65 miles per hour. The short article concludes by saying the Coast Guard welcomed the initiative. According to its record, 4,070 personal watercraft were involved in accidents in 1997. Of those, 84 involved drownings. This is a very complex, fast, little piece of equipment, when the industry, itself, wants to limit the speed to 65 miles per hour, and the present regulations of Game and Parks permits anyone over 14 but there is no provision for safety instruction of any kind. I think that Senator Hilgert's bill is, frankly, much better than the bills I've introduced in the past, and maybe that's the reason it got out of committee, and certainly what Senator Schrock says, the terminology has been refined in the committee amendments and they are not complex. They cured some of the...they redefined some of the...some of the terminology. One of the most important changes it makes is to say that you can't operate these type of jet skis within 30 yards of other people that are using other boats, or within 30 yards of docks and limits the speed limit. I think this is a very good bill and I think it has been refined and properly worked out so that the details are good. It provides for the...for safety instruction and that's the big key to this. That's the reason this bill is better than the ones I've had in the past, which did not provide for safety instruction. We've got a lot of children using jet skis. As most of you know, Lake McConaughy is in my legislative district. It's the largest lake in the state. I participate in watersports there and have a sailboat, and I have personally seen some of the dangerous practices with jet skis and I urge the adoption of the committee amendments and also the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Hilgert, on the committee amendments.