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January 11, 2000 LB 356, 505

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I think by now probably I'm not going to be able to get away with telling you that this is another revisor bill and there are just a few technical amendments and we'll all vote, right? I see my esteemed gray-haired colleague, Senator Chambers, smiling amorously at me this afternoon. I had hoped in the interim to be able to spend some time with not only Senator Chambers, with others of you who I knew had...had some reluctance, had not been convinced that this was the type of legislation that you wanted to unanimously support. I found, with my good friend and colleague, Senator Chambers, that even though he has become somewhat more mature he still has not become more mellow. And, unfortunately, we've had to find that he had intense interest in the rules debate prior to coming to LB 356, so he got warmed up and he let me know that he was so warmed up that he saw no need to slow down in any way when it came to LB 356. So what I'm trying to tell you this morning, or this afternoon, is the fact that, in his indubitable way, Senator Chambers can count as well as I can and he very well knows that, unless I determine to tie up this body for a length of time more than any of us would desire, I don't have the votes to invoke closure (sic). I want to take a couple of minutes, though, before I put you all out of your misery and pass on to the next bill that you're all anxious to get to, LB 505, that this issue has not become less important to me. It is not an issue that I am just going to go hide under a rock somewhere and let slip into the sunset. I plan on continuing my effort. I'm very passionate about my interest and my desire to save lives of Nebraskans, and I'm going to work very hard between now and next January to construct legislation that is going to find enough approval in this body to save lives and to save dollars of the citizens of this state. I want to ask you to do one thing through this next year, and something that I do on a religious basis, is go to the local page of the Lincoln paper, go to the "Midlands" section of the Omaha World-Herald, go to your local papers and really look very carefully at what is continuing to happen in this state with people who aren't wearing restraints in automobile accidents. The carnage on our highways continues and I feel very, very strongly that this is an issue that we do