

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

April 8, 2003

LB 303

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Kruse, you said some of the things that I wanted to say to this body. And I wanted to let people know, who weren't here when Senator Lynch was here, that this was a very emotional issue on the floor every time we ever discussed it. And we have discussed this issue, and we have discussed this issue, and we have discussed this issue. I rise in opposition to the bill. I have questions about the committee amendment. And I rise in support of the amendment to the committee amendment. When my sons were little, and when they were growing up, we didn't have a lot of rules at our house. I didn't think rules always brought out the best behavior. It sometimes called for the imposition of certain kinds of punishment that (laugh) didn't really work very well either. But when my boys were little, I told them that there were two rules that they had to abide by. One of those rules was based on an irrational fear of flying that I had, and I told them they couldn't ever grow up to be airline pilots. And second thing they couldn't do...and this was a rational fear...they could not ever get on a motorcycle. I believed then, and I believe now, that they are very dangerous. It is not for me to say they should be outlawed. I think that many people have driven them for many years with great safety. But I do support the idea of the helmet law in this state. And I was kind of amused when I saw Senator Smith's map here that shows Nebraska surrounded by all these states that have helmet laws, and that maybe is a rationale for our enacting such a law. And I would just say, well, the same thing applies to gambling, Senator Smith. (Laugh) The states all around us have gambling. So you know, be careful what you wish for. I also would echo what Senator Brown said about the costs to other people. There are costs to other people. And one of the persons who's been most vocal and most steadfast over the years in his opposition to the helmet law...or to the removal of the helmet law, is a Dr. James Manion, from Creighton University, who I'm sure some of you know. And I counted, without going through my whole file, three letters this year alone from him, telling about some of the human costs and some of the economic costs of not having helmet laws. And he talks about letters