

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

April 8, 2003      LB 303

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'll quit, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I think probably would make it unanimous consent that if we saw Senator Cudaback driving a motorcycle we all would want to be wearing our helmet to get out of the way. Thank you, Senator Cudaback, for warning us. (Laugh) I wanted to speak. Senator Smith, would you yield to just one question? Because I might not have been paying attention when you were talking about the risk of neck injuries and wearing helmets. Were you referring to statistics that supported that there were fewer neck injuries wearing a helmet or more injuries?

SENATOR SMITH: What I refer...

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. What I referred to was the testimony from an orthopedic surgeon in Omaha, here in Nebraska, who suggested that neck injuries he has seen complicated by additional weight on the head, on the shoulders, and that additional weight can...and, like I said, I'm not using that as a sole reason for adopting policy. What I'm saying is helmets aren't what they're purported to be.

SENATOR BYARS: Okay. Thank you, Senator Smith. I appreciate it. I do have some statistics that refute that testimony I would at least like to get into the record. There was apparently a study by an individual, J.P. Goldstein, that is often used by people who are opposing helmet use as evidence that a helmet caused neck injuries, but there have been more than a dozen studies done that have refuted Goldstein's findings, and a study done in the Annals of Emergency Medicine analyzed 1,153 motorcycle crashes in four Midwestern states and determined that helmets reduced head injuries without an increased occurrence of spinal injuries in motorcycle trauma, and I just wanted to get that into the record. I wasn't sure exactly what Senator Smith was referring to, but thank you for being clear on that. I want to talk a little bit about the