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FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2003            LB 303

support to adopt the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Chairman Baker. You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. The question before the body is, should they be adopted to LB 303? All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on adoption of the committee amendments to LB 303, offered by the Transportation Committee...and Telecommunications. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 1 nay on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: They are adopted. Anything...

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Back to discussion of the bill itself, advancement of LB 303 to E & R Initial. Open for that discussion. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I just hope that everyone will consider what they're voting for in this particular bill. I just received this from Kearney. An individual sent it in and said that in United States the death rate for those on motorcycles per traveled mile is 35 times more than that of a passenger car. In United States, 4,977 people were killed on motorcycles in a three-year period, from '96 to '98. Rates were highest among young adults, 20 to 29. Those are those that we're exempting out of this bill, 20 to 29 years old, and twice as high among males as females. Motorcycle helmet use is estimated to...in result of 29 percent reduction in mortality, and 67 percent reduction in head injury in the event of a crash. The National Highway Transportation Safety Association estimates that \$12.1 billion was saved from 1994 to 1998 nationally as a result of motorcycle helmets. An additional \$10 billion, with a "b", could have been saved if all individuals involved in motorcycle crashes had worn helmets. I'm a bottom-line type of an individual. Typically, I usually vote on economics, and that certainly enters into this. But along with that, like I said, I still would challenge anybody to tell me, to convince me, to