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LB 303

that's where the public policy issue I think really, pardon the pun, but the rubber hits the road. What is good public policy and where is our responsibility? Where is it the responsibility of this Legislature to start making laws that overshadow, that overtake what's called "personal responsibility?" And we can't forget it. Please don't forget it. We, of all people, when we've been looking at a 700 plus million dollar hole in our budget and then we start talking about passing laws that irrefutably are going to cost this state millions and millions of dollars. You can take the deaths clear out of it, which I can't.

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: I can't in good conscience do that, but then you put the financial picture and the economics in and it's just...it's absolutely irrefutable. I'm not going to get started on that until I have my light on again, Senator Vrtiska, because I don't want to get started and then be interrupted, but I would like to give some very definite statistics on what happens when you have traumatic brain injury and when you have head injuries that we, as a society, have to pay for. Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Certainly, I'm not the one with the time clock in my hands right now, but I refuse to let someone mischaracterize an issue. And that is that I want to point out an interesting comment on General File that was made by a strong opponent to LB 303. And that comment said, we, meaning the 49 lawmakers in this body, own the roads, and we have the prerogative to, I will use the word, dictate the behavior on those roads. My response back then was, no, it's the 1.7 million Nebraskans who own the roads. It's not the 49 lawmakers here. But that statement I believe was very telling, and when I look at the issues that have come before our body when it comes to personal decisions, I can't help but think how there's an effort out there to restrict a legal behavior on private property; to restrict a legal behavior on private property. Now that hasn't passed yet but I'm sure we