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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 303

considered?

SENATOR BYARS: I can't answer that question. I'm assuming that this is legislation that has been passed. These are helmet laws. This came from the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, from the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau is where I'm quoting the information from.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, thank you. Now you mentioned when you were stating some numbers, you talked about the deaths and injuries going down. You stopped at 1999. Was there a reason you stopped at 1999?

SENATOR BYARS: I was tired of talking. If you'd like me to continue, in 2000, it dropped further...

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...to 3 dead. In 2001, there were 11 dead and in 2002 15 dead, still 10 to 11 below 1984, substantially below 1988, the last year when we could go helmetless.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Thank you, Senator Byars. I want to point out that, and you will see another handout with the graphs that show that injuries and fatalities due to no helmets was already going down before the helmet law came on the books. Now I will never say that it's a bad idea to wear a helmet. What I'm saying is that if you take some training and you have protective eyewear, you're 21 years of age, and you have health insurance, you can go without a helmet. That health insurance thing is a red herring anyway because as I stated earlier the numbers...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Next speaker is Senator Hartnett speaking on the Byars amendment, AM1365 to LB 303. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to