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LB 303

of republic. They see the country bitterly divided with adult choice states that those mandatory helmet laws and say they plan their vacations accordingly. I think that's where Senator Smith is coming from is it's...

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ...as soon as I leave the state I take it off, says Joe Dickey, a security officer in Pennsylvania which has a mandatory helmet law and who runs a web site called www.lonebiker.com. Mr. Dickey, 59, is also the former state president of American Bikers Aiming Towards Education, a leading rider lobbyist group known as acronym ABATE. Mr. Dickey's web site, intended for bikers activists and freedom fighters...didn't know bikers and freedom fighters were together but I guess that they are, offers an assortment of documents that support the benefits of helmets. It also quotes, among others, Thomas Jefferson, "The trees of liberty need to be watered from time to time with bloods of patriots and tyrants."

SENATOR VRTISKA: Time.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I will continue. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. (Visitors introduced.) The next speaker is Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. I do rise in support of Senator Byars' amendment. It absolutely makes sense. It's interesting that I got a letter also from Bill Mulherin, who says LB 303, as it sits, is not the bill that was introduced in committee. The changes are buried in amendment, page 16 of AM0159 as well as changes to AM0159 by other amendments that have already been advanced as part of this bill. It will take you awhile but you will determine the bill before you is an unabashed attempt to strip the state of its helmet law. I am an attorney, a motorcycle rider, and also an instructor of motorcycle safety in Nebraska. I am familiar with how divisive and emotional this issue is and has been and likely will continue to be, particularly in the motorcycle community. However, my fears of helmet repeal are based on the research