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FLOOR DEBATE

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numerous serious injuries, and property damage. I wanted to stop the city of Omaha from having high-speed chases, and also the Douglas County Sheriff's Department. So we were going to have hearings in Omaha and the sheriff at that time, his name was Ted Janning (phonetic), was not going to show up and he was not going to allow anybody from his department to show up, because he did not think that the subject was worthy of his attention. So I did something that had never been done before and has not been done since. I subpoenaed the sheriff and he had to show up. And if you doubt the truth of what I'm saying, you can ask "Emperor" Radcliffe. But at any rate, when we have activities by law enforcement that endanger lives which result in the loss of innocent lives, something drastic has got to be done. The article that I handout...handed out dealt with the death of three people. All three were on motorcycles. Two were riding one motorcycle; the third person was riding alone. They came to an intersection and the young guy being pursued by the Council Bluffs police went through that intersection, struck the motorcycles, and all of those people were killed instantly. Some of the witnesses talked about what a gruesome scene it was when they arrived. I thought maybe they meant blood and broken bones, but one man said "body parts," plural, were scattered around when he came. Sometimes speeds during this chase reached 80 miles per hour. What I had done several years ago was to consider that these chases into Omaha are conducted by cops from Council Bluffs. The lives, the welfare, the property of Omaha citizens were endangered thereby, so I put on my thinking cap to figure what could be done to protect the citizens of this state. Although the chases were primarily from Council Bluffs, which is in Iowa, into Omaha, there are other surrounding states. And I had to figure a way to give this state jurisdiction over the cops from another state and over the agency for which those cops worked. Many years ago I was able to persuade the Legislature to enact a law which exists only in Nebraska. If, during a high-speed police chase, or a police pursuit, because it doesn't have to be high speed, an innocent third party is injured, killed, or suffers property damage, the agency which employs that pursuing officer must respond in damages to make that injured third party whole to the extent that money can do so. Using that as the model, I crafted legislation that would put the same protections in place for Nebraskans if the chase were