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FLOOR DEBATE

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you from introducing the bill in committee: but those numbers aren't even available. The next thing we see is, you'll see the charges for motorcycle crash head injury paid by Medicaid over a five-year period of time, and you'll see it's surprisingly low. How can that be? Well, we didn't look far enough. Who did we talk to? Did we talk to all of these organizations? Did we talk to the Nebraska Hospital Association? Did we talk to the people in Scottsbluff at the hospital there? It's a Level II trauma center. Did we talk to anybody, other than the motorcycle people? Speaking of the motorcycle people, a...sir, I'm speaking. No, sir. Speaking of Florida, there was a very neat, well-prepared flyer sent about, about Florida, and that when they repealed their helmet law, the deaths actually went down. Well, we checked into that. Senator Johnson, I just discovered where the information came from that was on the flyer. You might note that the information on the flyer is consistent with the statements from the Florida president of ABATE in disputing the state of Florida study, a study funded by the state of Florida to the tune of \$190,000. The president of ABATE in Florida then said it was all biased. Why in the world would it be a biased study? Here's what we actually found out about the flyer. The motorcycle registration numbers increase that the newspaper story did is not valid. With annual registrations, you can't use six months of one year plus the annual totals of another. You are counting some of the same registrations twice. To be valid, you should only compare a 12-month annual registration total to another 12-month annual registration total. This is the type of statistic manipulation by groups that support this legislation. I, too, would like to see the list of groups that support this legislation. One of the things that you mentioned is that you want to do this for economic development. The only thing that I saw were a couple of letters in support from a few motels in Scottsbluff. Did Scottsbluff or Gering Chamber of Commerce come and testify or support this bill?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Did any organizations that promote tourism in the state of Nebraska come and support this bill? I'd be interested to know. They certainly didn't show up at the