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FLOOR DEBATE

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state law that a football team wears a helmet. That was brought up the last time this bill was debated, but it doesn't need to be in state law. Now, when we talk about public safety and protecting us from ourselves, the seat belt issue has been interjected here and there. But the fact is we have a more relaxed seat belt policy, much to Senator Byars' chagrin, but we have a more relaxed seat belt policy in Nebraska than we have a helmet law. And yet, we look to helmets, and why is that? Because politically it's possible. It's possible politically to narrow down motorcyclists and pick on them even though they're very responsible, every bit as responsible as the average car driver. But yet when the Legislature, I believe I'm correct on this, passes a mandatory seat belt law, primary offense, the voters repeal it and the Legislature then settles for a secondary offense, but politically it's harder to get a mandatory seat belt law here in Nebraska, even though it could leverage more public safety, or should I say leverage...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...lesser injuries than otherwise. But...and Senator Schimek pointed out that, you know, we have law and order and it's our job as policymakers to bring about law and order and, after all, we have stop signs, we have speed limits; therefore, we have a mandatory helmet law. And I believe I'm next and I'll continue my comments when I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Smith, you may continue. Your light is next.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. To continue on the fact that law and order does not come about by requiring a helmet be on the head of a motorcyclist. That affects that person. Senator Beutler is trying to say that insurance rates go up, taxes go up, and otherwise, when I have not seen the proof of that. Perhaps I'm wrong, perhaps I'm naive to say that...or to want more evidence of the tax issue, of the insurance issue to be proven, because I would argue that it's insignificant. Of course, any insurance claim is paid for by other policyholders, Senator Johnson, any insurance claim,