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FLOOR DEBATE

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support...or, in opposition. In fact, I want to recall your attention to the Jim Jensen list that came out earlier. Has 47 groups that are opposed to the helmet law. That...those are significant numbers, and they represent people of varying kinds of professions, mainly medical and insurance. But those are the people who should know. I'd also like to go back to that committee hearing. And I'd like to call your attention to a letter that I think you probably all got, I certainly got, from a doctor at UNMC, Dr. Stothert. And he mentions in the letter that at the hearing he did present the data within the state, as well as from across the United States, clearly indicating that allowing motorcycle riders to not wear a helmet significantly increases their risk of death and disability. He goes on to say that he strongly urges us to vote for (sic) LB 70, which, if passed, will result in the death of more individuals. And then he signs his letter, and he lists all his professional kinds of activities: professor of surgery at UNMC; director of trauma, University of Nebraska Med Center; medical director of the Omaha Fire Department; statewide medical director for trauma. I mean, this fellow is eminently in a position to know about these safety issues. But the clincher that does it for me is right at the very bottom of the letter, where it says, motorcyclist, 1994 to 2004. He is a motorcyclist, and he says that we would be making a large mistake if we pass this bill. With that, Senator Jensen,...you got your light on? With that, I'll return my time to the Chair. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Oh. Oh, one other thing I forgot to mention, if I might, since I haven't used it up. I do wish to clarify, for the record, that when I was talking about Charleston, South Carolina, this morning, I wasn't talking about anything to do with the bikers themselves. I was talking about the loud amount of racket and confusion that all those motorcycles in town caused. And I don't want anybody to think that I have some kind of stereotypical picture in my mind of motorcyclists.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I know they come from all professions and from