TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 21, 2005 LB 70

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm just back on the mike in case other people need time to visit. apparently aren't visiting, but I'll throw my two cents' worth in here on this amendment. The argument that...a lot of arguments have been made, and they all kind of fall into a couple categories. One category is, what do the statistics, what do the studies say? And it's hard to believe that we can argue about whether if you land on your head on the pavement without a helmet, whether that's a problem or not. But argue about those things if you want. The other is economic development. And...well, and the obvious one of, should people ride free at the expense of the taxpayers? So we have three arguments. The one about economic development, which is, let people ride through the state on their way to and from the rally, is the one that Senator Jensen made the compromise on. And I think Senator Chambers said it well--if you want to trade whatever cost there may be, and hopefully, people coming through the state, if they get head injuries, will be taken back to their home states and we won't end up paying for them here. maybe there's some economic spin to this that it won't be just Nebraskans who we have to pay for. Hopefully, these people would be taken care of by their families in their home states, and wouldn't become part of our Medicaid rolls. But if you want to trade those ideas off, I think that's what the compromise is. Go to what the arguments have been on this bill. I sat on the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee for a few years, and have been on Appropriations since then, so I've been on...I've heard the hearings on this. The arguments haven't changed since I first got to the Legislature in 19...I was appointed in 1997. So we get down to the basic issues. I think Senator Jensen, almost surprisingly, has come up with And if Senator Smith has decided to accept that, I imagine we'll hear when he speaks next. I'd yield any time that I have to Senator Jensen, if he would like it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen, about two-and-a-half minutes.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, and thank you, Senator Thompson. This is an issue that, yes, I would have never thought about the moratorium until actually somebody else