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FLOOR DEBATE

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don't have to waste any thought on it whatsoever. I made it clear prior to Senator Smith kicking me off of his bandwagon that I'm not offering statistics, I'm not making comparisons. I am voting--I was speaking in the present tense at that time--I am voting for his bill, I stated, because I have always opposed the mandatory helmet law. I spoke against it down through the years. I pointed out that even when the federal government had said they would withhold road funds if a mandatory helmet law was not in place, at that time I believe I was able to point out that Illinois and California had none, at that time. I said, now, those are two states whose money the federal government is not going to take. There are too many electoral votes there. And sure enough, they were not touched. The federal government began to soften its policies, and now there is no punishment from the federal government if a state does away with the mandatory helmet law. I was quoted in the paper, the first time we had a debate on this. And I had pointed out that if a person is a fool to ride a helmet without...ride a motorcycle without a helmet, a person has a constitutional right to be a fool. Which is the way it was then, which is the way it is now. My position on that score has not changed. Politics has entered into the equation. And Senator Smith dared me to get off his bill yesterday. And I'm accepting his dare, and I'm off his bill. I was one of the 25 votes that was cast against Senator Beutler's amendment which would have stricken the part that did away with the mandatory motorcycle helmet wearing. And I explained to Senator Smith why I wanted the roll call vote. I'm sure he may have had a feeling of relief when he saw the 25 votes go up, even though there was no guarantee that those would convert into votes for his bill. At least he had one vote taken where 25 votes were cast in a way that he preferred. He won't get that again. He doesn't have me helping him. Now, if there are some people who think I'm getting too arrogant, you will now help him, and my leaving will be replaced by three others joining him. Except, I don't think that will happen. The people who are opposed to allowing people to ride motorcycle without helmets...motorcycles without helmets, are not going to come over to Senator Smith's side just to make up for the fact that I have left him. They're probably glad. Now, Senator Smith can speak against the bracket motion, and there may not be 25 votes to adopt it. But we're going to have the opportunity to see