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FLOOR DEBATE

April 26, 2005      LB 70A

on. Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, you have spoken three times. You are recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I stand on my feet all the time, so it doesn't mean necessarily that I expect to be recognized to speak. But this time, because it is my motion and I'm closing, I am going to speak. Senator Kruse gave his reasons for supporting the A bill. I think Senator Jensen indicated he is not going to support it. A motorcycle needs at least two wheels that are operational to move in the way intended. Senator Kruse constitutes one of those wheels. There will be others, I'm sure, who will support the A bill. But I will not. I do not automatically support every A bill that goes along with a bill that has been moved across the floor. If I don't support the bill, why should I support funding it? The money is the lifeblood. So my philosophy is not to just have a blanket position of supporting every A bill. I had said that Senator Smith landed a string of fish yesterday, and that I would read the names, perhaps. And I think I should. These are the ones who supported Senator Smith's amendment, which says that wearing eyeglasses is more important than wearing a helmet: Aguilar, Baker, Bourne, Brashear, Combs, Connealy, Cornett, Cudaback, Cunningham, Erdman, Fischer, Flood, Friend, Heidemann, Hudkins, Janssen, Kremer, Kruse, Landis, Langemeier, Louden, McDonald, Mines, Raikes, Schrock, Smith. Twenty-six fish on the line. I really should say just 25, because Senator Smith is the angler. There is no way to discuss an A bill without discussing the underlying bill that is to be funded. I will say again and again that it was a foolish vote on a foolish proposal. Some of us were just waiting with bated breath, almost hoping that that amendment would be adopted which would purport to suspend the enforcement of a criminal law for a couple of months. That is so unconstitutional that only somebody who would support putting hunting, trapping, and fishing into the constitution would support something like that. LB 70 is a mockery. The intent that I would have if I had succeeded in getting the body to adopt that foolish amendment is to discourage any and all enforcement, because it is simply too difficult. Senator Smith himself said that law enforcement people have too much to do to be bothered with enforcing a helmet provision.