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FLOOR DEBATE

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mine in the beginning. I've always opposed mandated helmet wearing. Even when the federal government's threatened...with the federal government's threatened withholding of funds, I opposed it. And I showed the legislators at that time that California and Illinois had defied the government, had refused to pass such bills; their money had not been taken. And Nebraska should do the same thing; and they couldn't get Nebraska without getting Illinois and California. From the standpoint of philosophy, I say, do away with the mandate. But as a member of the Legislature, and looking at the type of law that is being passed, this is different from even the seat belt law. The seat belt law does not say, if you're wearing eyeglasses you don't have to wear a seat belt. It doesn't have anything like that. This that you all voted for yesterday is neither fish nor fowl. If you want the opportunity to undo what was done, don't pass this A bill. I know some people will rationalize, as my good friend Senator Kruse did, that you're having these safety programs, and that makes it palatable to do away with the requirement that you wear the helmet. What is the purpose of the safety training? To try to create safe riding of motorcycles. If, as has been argued, at least at lower speeds, a helmet can prevent death or serious brain injury or other head injuries that may not go all the way to damage to the brain, if those considerations are true, then people can give a rationale for supporting mandated helmet wearing. There is a plausible...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...argument for that. There is no plausible argument for what the Legislature did yesterday. And people can pop up on this floor like sweet tarts and say whatever they want to say. That was stupid that the Legislature did yesterday. And I'd venture to say, if I had grilled anybody on this floor after they did it, they could not have told what they voted for. Now that I've explained it, they can pretend that they knew. They didn't know what they did yesterday. They didn't even pay attention to what was going on. And the way those votes came in quick succession once a determination was made to invoke cloture, people didn't know for sure even which amendment they were voting on. Senator Smith tried to circumvent the rules by explaining what was left and what was done to Senator Jensen's