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LB 70

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I'm for freedom. It's in the constitution. Don't bother me with the facts. It's my head and my brain, and I can do whatever I want with it. That's what we were basically told the first day. We found out that wasn't the case. It is expensive. It's the most expensive injury that you can sustain, and it lasts year after year. Let's talk just a little bit more about that freedom. With Memorial Day just having gotten over, I thought about this a little bit in regard to this bill. What are the freedoms? Freedom of speech probably is the single most important freedom that we have. Yet, here we also have constraints. We can't yell, fire, in a crowded restaurant so that we get a place to sit down. We have just seen where Newsweek magazine caused all kinds of worldwide trouble by printing unsubstantiated material. Television certainly has been guilty of this. And yet, television has the potential of spreading the truth of freedom in the not-so-free world. Second freedom, freedom to vote, unquestionably one of the things that is...has taken us two centuries to come to where we are now. Third, freedom to trial by jury of our peers, under rules established by us. But here's what I want to talk to you about this morning. Freedom to act, laws and restrictions, guarantees we place ourselves through the process...upon ourselves, through the process of freedom of speech and the freedom to vote, and monitored by our trial by jury system. Generally, these freedoms work to create an orderly society. The goal is to promote the general health and welfare, and allowing us as much personal freedom as we can reasonably attain with that kind of goal. Many people over the years, those that fought in Europe to free us from Hitler, and many others along the line, they did this so that we representatives may establish an orderly society for the common good. Let's not cheapen these deeds by the builders of our country by associating them with traffic safety regulations. With this great gift of freedom comes our responsibility to make informed decisions, weighing all factors, based on unbiased material. Poor legislation wrapped in the flag is still poor legislation. LB 70 is poor legislation. Let this legislation...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.