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

June 1, 2005 LB 70

also, and the comments that he was making. It is interesting, though, that even that one individual, which is absolutely wrong, but yet, 99.5 percent--this is in 2003--of the riders were wearing helmets in the state of Nebraska. That's extremely I'm reading this, actually, from a statement from MADD. But that...in 2003, 13 people died and 369 were injured in motorcycle crashes on Nebraska roadways. That's tragic. But the upside is that helmet usage in 2003 for motorcycle riders was 99.5 percent, certainly almost unanimous compliance throughout the state. Now, yes, I would absolutely agree that some of those helmets are not the protection that I would like to see. But I stated on the floor here once before, even a towel around the head is better than nothing. And even that plastic pot on the head, if it's plastic, is still better than nothing. And if you're skidding down the roadway at 50 miles an hour, I'd rather have a plastic pot on my head than nothing. So even that helps. And if I was in the Legislature long enough, I would introduce legislation that would require that these helmets--even though it's still in the law right now--that that would be enforced. But even the \$50 fine, is all, as Senator Friend mentioned, is not high enough. We had suggested in one of the negotiations that we tried work with Senator Smith was to increase that to a \$500 fine. I think you'd get compliance And I think if we had a \$500 fine also on improper helmets, you would see proper helmets being worn. Those...that's the way I would like to go. Like I said, I'm always looking for safety. And it's just so interesting how we got on this issue in the first place. There's a few people who want to ride a motorcycle without helmets. And so here we are, trying to repeal a helmet law, or trying to come up with a secondary offense or whatever, so that some people can ride without a helmet. That...and yet, 80 percent...now, if I was running for office, any time I can be on the side of an issue where 80 percent of the people are, that's the side I believe I would go to. But when, by polls, two polls that were run within the last two years, 80 percent of the people support the helmet law, 80 percent, that is significant. And if...like I said, if I was running for office, or not even running for office, I always look at where my constituents are. And that...by the way, that was across the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Districts, all across the state. And so if I had some political thought of being in