

is, why can't Nebraska be first? Why do we have to be last in all of our legislation? Senator Pappas, for example, worked very hard, supported the cabooses, and Nebraska was one of the very last states to get rid of cabooses. I also want to mention that I had offered to work with the very heavy financially supported lobbyists out behind the door. I went to them. I called them in. I said I will sit down and I will talk with you, but they wanted it only one way, their way. Kill the bill. If I don't have this bill on the floor, I have no power whatsoever to go with them. Their answer was, Arlene, you get this on the floor, there goes my living. I will probably get fired as a lobbyist and so on. Okay, are we talking about one individual or two or are we talking about hundreds of thousands of kids out there that are innocently being harmed? Stop and think of that when it comes to push your vote. I said they will have to retain you next year because I am willing to sit down, I am willing to put it in writing that I will work with the tobacco companies, and let's try to resolve this. As they say, we will gladly work with you this summer, Arlene. We will do anything we want to. Well, they have been told not to give this away to the kids, and so what else are they going to do, come around and offer me false hopes and false promises? As I said, I offered to work with them, and I still will work with them because it is a problem. Senator Higgins, it is just rather amusing when you talk about cheese and Pepsi, and so I will guarantee you those are not carcinogenic items. Maybe Pepsi, you may relate to that. The state has put out millions and millions of dollars to counteract cancer and the harm done by these products, so I think it is even ridiculous to compare the two. As I said, I need this bill because I need some power, and as Senator Dierks, I appreciated, his comments are exactly right. It is about time that we start moving instead of innocently allowing these kids to use a product like this thinking that it is as harmless as bubble gum. Senator Peterson has the exact answer. If we don't get some power on this and show them that we mean business, nothing is simply going to happen. They are unwilling to address the problem. Daily I find more and more places that it is given out, like Ag Days in Grand Island here not very long ago, the Husker Harvest. Pat Morehead made so many very good points that I won't take time to speak to those. I will turn the rest of my time over to Senator Miller.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Miller, approximately one minute.

**SENATOR MILLER:** Mr. Speaker and members, and thank you, Arlene,