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principle of the thing, discouraging respect for the law.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in support of the Landis amendment, even though I have a few questions about it, Senator Landis, which I will get to in a few minutes. But I, like everyone else in this body, have received a number of letters and phone calls on this issue. And, of course, there are people who are smokers who are very concerned that we are singling them out for punitive reasons. And, of course, I don't believe that's the object of this bill at all. I think the object of the bill and the reason that I am supporting it is that it is a proven fact that you can impact youth smoking, if you increase the tax on cigarettes or the price of cigarettes. And the younger the student or the child, the more impact you have. So we know from statistics that younger and younger children are smoking all the time. And when we're talking about 10 and 11-year-olds, that's where you're going to have significant impact. We also know that if you can push back the age to a higher and higher age that...of children smoking, that the higher they get...the closer they get to 18, if they haven't been hooked by age 18, they're probably not going to be hooked. So I would submit to you that we're talking about children here and the impact that we can have on them. I also had a really interesting letter from a constituent who had gotten the priority letter from Phillip Morris, that I'm sure some of you have seen, because your constituents wrote notes on it and sent it in to you. And on every paragraph this particular consti...well, first of all, he says at the top of the letter, he says, please raise the price, vote yes for the tax. I'm an average American, 43 years old. This country needs to smoke less. And then in almost every paragraph he has comments about we're not doing things fast enough, the cigarette tax isn't unfair, blah, blah, blah. He goes clear on down. But the interesting part on the other side is his final closing paragraph which says, I am a smoker. I'm trying to quit. As the price goes up, I smoke less. I really like to smoke. I was smoking two and a half to three packs a day. I'm down to less than one-half pack. Please help me stay here or quit. Yes, raise the tax at least 66 cents, more if you can. If we can get smoking down to just bars and outside, we will do everyone a