

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 12, 2000 LB 505  
LR 292

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: And I certainly have a great concern about those people who are addicted, but I've got a greater concern on those who are not yet...not yet addicted who may be addicted if we cannot put some controls on this. That's why I support LB 505. I would just ask that you do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 292. Further discussion on the Landis amendment to LB 505. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, I haven't spoke on that this year yet but I just wanted to stand up and say a few things because last year I supported the 66 cents and I thought that was really a good deterrent to the children smoking. I call them children because I think that a lot of them are pretty much children any more because they're clear down to 12 and 13 that are starting. But I supported that and I just kept saying, well, your 30 cents is just a tax increase. I do like the way that they've changed it so that we know more where it's going to go. I still think we need them to have more education in the schools because a lot of kids in schools does not realize what damage they're doing to their health. They think they can smoke and they won't gain weight and they can eat junk food and everything else and not gain weight, and they think it's the right thing to do. And so it's been a tough decision for me and I still, I'm kind of wondering what to do but I said before that this here is something that's kind of strange because youth cannot buy cigarettes according to our state law right now, and we're passing something to say that we're going to increase the tax so they won't buy it. I think it's kind of complicated there when you start looking at it that way because we do have laws on the books that they're not supposed to be buying it. Maybe that's the way we should be going. So I'm...I just want to stand and tell you that my feelings on it right now and I'm not sure for sure where I'm going to be on it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator