

April 2, 1979

LB 344

of any kind to smoking, of course this could affect the number of smoking and tobacco products that are sold and for this reason it could affect the industry economically. But I think that the issue that deals with the health, the protection of the health, the welfare and the comfort of the citizens of this state far outweighs the arguments that are advanced by the tobacco interests. Additionally the Restaurant Association has chosen to oppose this particular measure and I know that, at least from the information that has been provided and given at hearings, it appears on their part that it is just an insensitivity on behalf of the restaurant members here in the State of Nebraska to accommodate the nonsmokers here in our state. I also like to point out that anyone that appeared in opposition did represent the interests of the Restaurant Association and also the tobacco industry. There was no citizen, members of the Legislature, from the State of Nebraska that opposed this at the public hearing. I should also point out when restaurants and the tobacco interests say that this is discriminatory and that it affects only the restaurant community, if you will go to section 4 and I will reiterate. This affects all places of work, retail stores, offices, commercial establishments, public conveyances, educational facilities, hospitals, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. Now these various facilities if they had had....

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR VENDITTE: ...objections to this proposal I am sure would have come forward at the time of the public hearing and expressed those concerns. Ladies and gentlemen, this is a proposal that I feel will affect the general health, comfort and welfare of Nebraska and its citizens and I would move for the advancement of LB 344 to E & R initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Yes, Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Stoney, section 4 I think it is, you... retail stores are included.

SENATOR STONEY: That is correct.

SENATOR COPE: As a nonsmoker naturally I like the idea but