

April 5, 1979

LB 344

the smokers and nonsmokers. I supported the bill in committee to get it out but I had reservations about the small places and I think the Public Health and Welfare Committee can back me on that that I did, I had reservations about the small places.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So even though the bill would allow flexibility and permit the chance for an exemption, you don't want that possibility to be left?

SENATOR MARESH: Pardon.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Never mind. Do you want to tell me what whoever sent you a note for? Maybe it is to bail you out. Oh, you choose to sit down. Okay. Members of the Legislature, this is a very serious matter and it does relate to the health and the welfare of citizens. There was much discussion about the ravages caused by alcohol, but to be frank, I am not aware of any Senators who have died from alcoholism yet, but I think at least one died as a result of what smoking did to his throat. So we have an example of one of the members of the Legislature dying from a smoking related cancer but you haven't had any Senator, as much alcohol as is consumed by Senators, who have died from that. Perhaps a few brain cells have died, and from some of the debate, I would conclude that to be a valid statement, but when we talk about giving examples for the youth and yet we are going to do things, Senator Maresh, and encourage things to be done in places where young people are taken, where infants are taken, then I do see a kind of inconsistency. Senator Kelly knows....

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman, I won't go beyond it. Senator Kelly knows that I have a conviction where the use of alcohol is concerned and I also have a concern about the welfare of people who are forced to be in situations where smoking occurs. Now maybe there are small restaurants where some people who are older, maybe some people who are not married will go to eat and they would eat there as regularly as other people eat at home. I think Senator Maresh's amendment is ill conceived and I think it ought to be rejected. It wouldn't be too much effort to require an individual to seek an exemption. I will vote against the amendment and for the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney, do you wish to be recognized on the...your light is on?