

Senator Lynch on the committee and Senator Wesely can verify what I say, is that at the State Fair there was a terrible problem of minors obtaining large quantities of free sampling and that brought about the bill. The industry came in and the industry said we do not want to give to minors. We have policies against that, and which we told the industry, well, you either need to put up or shut up. You need to either say you don't want to give to minors and do something about it, or we are going to pass this piece of legislation, and it did come out of committee last session, and it came out of the committee with a couple of understandings among the committee members. Number one, it was not a priority in the short session and, number two, it would not be brought up because of the lateness of the bill being reported, but it was a message to the tobacco industry and the smokeless tobacco industry, in general, that if they did not clean up their act as they said they wanted to do, this bill would come up again. Now what happened was the industry did go back and the industry did, in fact, clean up their act. Last year, there was not one, that I am aware of, major reported conflict at either county fairs, and the State Fair, naturally, took care of its own problem, there was not one major incident that occurred that had to do with minors obtaining sampling. The industry made some major changes in its sampling booths. Now again I would like to go on record, I do not support the tobacco industry. I do not smoke myself. I do not support smokeless tobacco. It is a dangerous and a terrible cancer-causing product. I want to be on record saying that. But on the other hand, what happened was the industry came back to the committee, came back to the Legislature this year and said, look what we have done, we have cleaned up our act, and nothing bad happened in regard to minors that I am aware of in the State of Nebraska. The industry went one step further this year. The bill came back, Senator Dierks picked up the bill again in all good conscience, and I know he has good conscience and good faith in the reasoning behind this bill. It was reintroduced again, and the tobacco industry, basically, said, I thought we got this taken care of. So the tobacco industry said, okay, okay. They came back this year and said, we are willing to take a position that we have never taken before in the State of Nebraska, and we have fought traditionally throughout the United States. We are willing to put tougher sanctions on giving away of samplings. Not only are we not giving away samplings now to minors, we are willing to put tougher restrictions and tougher standards on anyone in our industry who does, number one. Number two, we are willing to