

urge the body's adoption of the amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I introduce some guests, please, under the north balcony, Senator Dennis Byars has Vern Shamburg from Fairbury. Would you please stand, Vern. Also, from Scotts Bluff County, we have Mike Martens, Larry Evans, and Roy Brethoun. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Wesely, did you wish to talk about the Bernard-Stevens amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. President and members, I would rise in opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment and in support of the bill. I do know that there are legitimate concerns that Senator Bernard-Stevens is raising. There are two elements to this amendment. Let me try and explain. The first deals with the effort to gut the bill and put in a different approach to dealing with this matter and not allowing or, at least, discouraging the free distribution to minors. That is element one of the amendment. Element two of the amendment deals with the question of minors in possession and purchasing tobacco products and having that as a crime that it is presently is not the case. That issue came up in the committee and it was considered, and I think, legitimately, it is an issue we need to look at, what penalty should there be for these young people to have in possession these products. And, of course, that could be added to this legislation without gutting the primary thrust of it which is to stop the free distribution of these products. It is a complicated issue, though, and it is one that I would think we need to discuss between now and Select File, and Senator Dierks has some legitimate concerns about that additional amendment. Senator Lynch, I know, is interested in it. Senator Scofield has mentioned it to me. That is something we can talk about. I would ask, though, at this time that you reject the Bernard-Stevens amendment because of the other part of the amendment, and that deals with gutting the free distribution prohibition. What they try and do under this amendment is to say that they are going to try awful hard not to let these free products go into the hands of young people. They will ask for your age when you send in a clip-in coupon and that should take care of the matter, and if you are not the right age, they won't send it free to you. Well, that is not going to get the job done. How are they going to check the age on these individuals? How are they going to be sure that these individuals are not under age. I don't think there is any way