

tried in some ways to do that, it is already illegal to distribute this to these kids, and they are still getting it. It, obviously, is not working right now. A minor adjustment is being proposed here is a step forward but will not solve the problem. If you want to get to the problem, the best thing we can think of is to just do away with the free samples, and it also serves a public function more than our youth in that adults then don't have the free samples to get to be addicted to and, thus, end up with cancer and other forms of disability, in fact can die from it. The thing I really want to get up for, though, is on the Lynch handout that came around. I don't know who prepared it but there is some inaccuracies that I wish to address. Number one, it talks about this has nothing to do with minors, it deals only with adults. That is simply not true. This amendment bans the giveaways to everybody and that includes minors and adults, and it doesn't just deal with adults. It isn't not affecting minors. That is absolutely wrong and I hope if you read that you don't have the impression that this bill doesn't affect minors. It is a falsehood that ought not to be taken up by anybody on this floor. In addition, at the bottom of this it talks about, additionally, as you will learn, the smokeless tobacco industry has cooperated totally with the committee and the Legislature the last few years, especially to address any legitimate problems with the distribution of the product. Those of you who have been on the committee, Stan Schellpeper, and Senator Nelson, and others that are there, know that that is not true. This bill has been before us a number of years. The smokeless tobacco industry has come in and fought it very hard, and that is fair. That is what they ought to do. They don't like the bill, and we have tried to work with them and they have tried to work with us to some degree, but, in fact, what we have found is that when we have said we are concerned about something, they have turned right around and kept right on doing it. When we said the State Fair ought to stop the distribution of this activity, as Senator Schelipeper tried to do something on the Fair Board, I was there and many others were there that saw kids coming up and grabbing these smokeless tobacco samples right off of the table, after we had two years of hearings on this issue, after we had fought in this Legislature to try and do something about it. After the smokeless tobacco industry said, we are going to stop this problem, we don't want this. We want to see our kids kept away from smokeless tobacco, and there they were, down at the State Fair passing it out as people grabbed not one but pocketfuls of smokeless tobacco as they were teenage kids obviously underage.