

a plumber's helper like I was for five years with a guy who chewed tobacco, chewed cigars, you'll know how tough it can be when you clean the tubs out that they use for targets. Believe me, I have no problem with the issue, but let's be serious about what we want to accomplish, that's all I am saying. And I think the amendment that I provide makes a lot of sense. It provides "minors", it provides "minors". Now if you want to keep everybody else from smoking tobacco, then that is what the bill says. Nobody can give them free samples, period. I guess you'd have to think about when you want to extend the bill to include everybody, I guess you can do the same thing then with drug stimulants, firearms and alcohol too, but that is another issue as well. So simply, the amendment defines, in fact, the intention of the writers of the legislation and provides "minors". Minors is defined in the statute, so there is no confusion about who they are, and it seems to me to purify the bill and make it obvious what we're trying to accomplish.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I object to the amendment. The amendment, again, dilutes the bill. Of course, we are directed at minors but we are no way that are we able yet to differentiate between a minor, 12, 13, 14-years-old, or 16-years-old obtaining the smokeless tobacco. It is fine to stand up here and say, yes, and they do arrest minors for alcohol and so on. I have a letter from, I mentioned yesterday, and incidentally, a very top-notch student in Grand Island High School. I asked him. He was over selling from church, some church material the other day, and he gave me the estimation that 65, 67 percent of the boys sometime or another in a month's time would chew tobacco at high school since they eliminated cigarettes. He...I asked him for a letter, I think he provided 60 percent, but I think the habit is so terrible and so dirty and the boy's bathroom, his figures were probably exaggerated. I believe statistics will show you more like 23 percent, and what we are, again, if we limit this to minors, Minnesota, Utah, and incidentally, in my notes from last year, there are four other states to be added to the '88 tobacco legislation, New York, Texas, Florida, Hawaii and, of course, California joined those, too. So Nebraska is not alone. I object, there is nothing wrong with the original bill as we had it in the first place. Of course, we are more concerned about minors. It's kind of like Nancy Osborne said, I just cannot believe the