

Legislature and where they are coming from and anyone that sees, if I see Bill Nichol standing there in front of that booth and I'm coming along and my 9-year-old grandson, I'd say, well, hey, Bill is a pretty nice little Joe. I can't see anything wrong with it if it he is handing it out to me or letting me have it, gosh, there can't be anything wrong with that, and that's the way the kids think and it simply is to ban all distribution of smoking, handing out the free gifts because in no way have we been able to control the kids in not getting it. And after this I will also tell you that...maybe I'd just as well, my time right now. This information is, in 1989 information, cancer statistics for Nebraska, 132 new cases of oral cancer among males per year in Nebraska. Oral cancer deaths in Nebraska, 1986, 51 deaths; 1987, 38; 24 are male, 17 female, 25 male, 13 female. It is simply...this amendment, again, is just another way to dilute the bill and make it so it isn't as strong as it is and I also, if you will notice the first words on this amendment. You go down to the bill, line 6, page 2, it strikes the words "impractical and ineffective" and puts in there that the age related restrictions on the promotional distribution of tobacco products is effective. I very much object to that statement. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President, members of the body, evidently this bill has...the introduction of this bill has caused a considerable amount of ire on the part of the tobacco industry and I don't know that I've seen as much activity in the Rotunda this year as I have this morning with people lobbying against the bill. I have some problems with that because the bill, as I stated before, is a very simple bill. It just says we aren't going to give this stuff to anybody in our state and it can only be construed to be a healthful measure. And the only other side of the issue is that the tobacco industry doesn't like that. They even sent out across the state to all the newspapers, a mailing, and I see that the World-Herald printed that on January 20. Part of it reads, Senator Dierks and others like him, I'm not sure what others like him means, but are engaged in a misguided attempt to do away with a legitimate and time-honored product. They are calling this Copenhagen a legitimate and time-honored product. This is a product that causes the addiction of our youth. It causes cancer in our youth. It causes the premature death of people that are