

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. President, just a quick note. I've discussed this with Senator Elmer and I think it is an excellent amendment and I would certainly be in support of the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Owen Elmer, would you like to close? Okay, the question is the adoption of the Owen Elmer amendment to the Bernard-Stevens amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the amendment to the amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Owen Elmer amendment to the amendment is adopted. Now we're back to the Bernard-Stevens amendment and I have Senator Dierks on next followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, I'd like to assure Senator Bernard-Stevens that I am not confused about the issue here. I want everybody to understand that I am not confused about what we're doing and I sincerely hope that no one else is confused. The issue is not confusing in the least. The issue is very simple. The issue is, do we allow the tobacco industry to continue to enslave the people of our state with their promotion of smokeless tobacco products or do we not? Or do we bow to the greed of the tobacco industry? This is the issue. It's very simple. It is not confusing. There is nothing about this that is confusing. If there is confusion, it is because of all the amendments that are being brought up here and these amendments are meant to do that very thing. The amendments are very well orchestrated, they are meant to confuse the issue. Don't let it happen. The issue is very, very simple and straightforward. I'd like to just read a few of the people who are supporting this legislation and I think it's impressive: The Nebraska Dental Association, the Nebraska Hygienists Association, the Nebraska Laboratory Technicians Association, the American Cancer Society, the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association, the Nebraska State Education Association, this is the NSEA, the Nebraska State Department of Education, the Nebraska Council of School Administrators, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the Creighton University School of Dentistry and the College of Dentistry at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Now, that, to me, is a very impressive group of people who support this legislation as I brought it who do not support the amendments that people are trying to confuse