

The law says they can't do it. That's what the bill says they can't do and they will be subject to penalties by doing it. There is no cloudiness about that issue. It's all cut and dried. And as to Senator Schmit's request that we would run the entire gamut of cigarettes, tobacco, cigars, whatever, I'd be most willing to do that. As a matter of fact, that amendment came on here the other day and the reason we objected to that amendment is we knew that wouldn't fly at all. That was an amendment the tobacco industry brought to us. They wanted us to put that up here because they knew this body wouldn't accept it. I'm striking out for the smokeless tobacco ban this year. This is the thing that we really need to accomplish in this state. If we're going to send a message to the people, to the citizenry of Nebraska that we are interested in helping our citizens in helping to fight this addictive, cancer-causing product from being given promiscuously to anybody in this state, we've got to support this legislation. I have problems with the industry. Senator Moore has suggested that the tobacco lobby has worked relentlessly, but that he hasn't been contacted by them. I agree, they have been working relentlessly. Why they have skipped Senator Moore, I don't know. I don't think there are many people that they haven't skipped. And as far as them being the weakest link, there is absolutely no truth to that. They are one of the strongest lobbies we've ever run into. This activity in that Rotunda has been unbelievable the last two days. The bill is in excellent condition. It doesn't need negotiation. The bill is very simple, very straightforward. It says simply we are going to not allow these people to give this tobacco to our youth, to all of our citizens and I'd like to dwell on that point a minute because everybody is saying, well, you're talking about the youth all the time, that you are banning this distribution to all citizens. I think that it is understood that when they distribute these products, their target is the youth of Nebraska. We know that it's not possible to control it by age. We know we can't control it by year 18 or year 21. That is in effect right now and it hasn't worked. If we can control it at all, it is going to have to be done by a total ban and these are the people we're really driving at. We're driving at the youth, the people who are one-time users and then become addicted.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: I would just urge your support of this legislation. I think we owe it to the people of this state, we