

General File debate, I sat here with my mind, basically, I mean, basically, I was against the bill for principle reasons but I really wasn't that fired up about it until I had the time to speak with some representatives from the dental association in the back that, basically, just were so insulted by the fact that there may be another side to the story. I mean...and then when a variety of senators supporting this bill, basically, labeled all of us that had a different opinion as immoral, bought and paid for by the tobacco industry, tools of John DeCamp, another lobbyist, I mean, I just started to get a little bit bothered by the...I used the word self-righteous then and I guess in some ways I hesitate to use that word again but the problem I have, in this body nothing, very few things are black and white. There are two sides to every story and when people on this...in this body get to the point where they feel so strongly, feel so strongly and so sincerely that they just refuse to look at the other side and throw a variety of stones at people that are offering a viable amendment and a viable alternative and start insulting those people, that insults me as a student of this body for a number of years and I guess I got upset and I said some things I probably shouldn't have said a week ago. But the reason I filed those 12 amendments and I'm filing these amendments today is that there is a middle ground in this amendment, there is some things we can do that will accomplish the things that Senator Dierks and Senator Nelson want to do, maybe not quite to the same degree, but if you really want to attack minors, I think the Bernard-Stevens amendment which is going to be offered in a little bit, you can do that without penalizing some 45-year old guy that has a can of Skoal worn through his back pocket, that attends a boat, sports and travel show down at Pershing Auditorium, why is he...why are you going to deny him the opportunity to have a free sample when he attends that show at Pershing Auditorium? I think that's going a little bit too far. And for those of you that talk about...talk about don't want government involved in a lot of things, you're going to say that that guy that's 45 years old, is an adult, can't have that right? I mean, that's fine, if you want to do that, that's fine, but I don't think I want to do that. I do want to attack minors. That's why I have not voted for the kill motion on this bill. I have...I voted to...I did not vote to advance the bill but there is a middle ground. I do not want this bill to die. I want to use this opportunity, since the tobacco companies are finally in the place, the bill is moving, Senator Dierks has got the tobacco companies' attention, I think we all do, we ought to use this opportunity