

before me is Senator Bernard-Stevens'. I have AM0274 in front of me, Senator. (The Bernard-Stevens amendment appears on pages 697-700 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I think we're well familiar with LB 48 and I want you to know that it's not my intention nor has it been my intention to stall the bill to keep the body from ever voting on it. In fact, one of the things that I did early this week was to ask Senator Dierks and Senator Barrett, Senator Moore and myself to meet in the Speaker's office to see if we can find a common ground and a way to help the bill move. And I think we did not find the common ground because, as Senator Dierks says, he will not agree to any amendment, regardless of the content, to his bill. But we did find common ground on how to make the bill move and I think this is the important amendment as to whether or not the bill...which form the bill will take. And I suspect the bill will move rather quickly after this amendment is either agreed to or not agreed to, depending on the will of the body. Members of the Legislature, I want to take just a second and be as unemotional as I can and talk to you about my amendment on a handout that was given to you. Hopefully, I have talked with you about it, and if not, the handout will be on your desk on Points to Ponder, LB 48. First of all, let me tell you an interesting process that has developed. If you love your grandmother, love your children, hate disease and love this country, you should support LB 48, we have been told, because it is the good side, it's the good force. If you hate your grandmother, want your children to die of disease and do not support the country, you want to support the Bernard-Stevens amendment because he is the spokesman for the evil empire, the evil forces out there, that which causes addiction and death of society and that is the choice we have been given. An interesting thing happened on the way to the Legislature this morning. Last night, for the first time, I got a chance to speak with one of the leadership of the Nebraska Dental Association up in my office at ten-thirty in the evening. And the most fascinating thing happened to me that evening, last night, because for the first time the gentleman and I went through my amendment and for the first time he saw my amendment and said, I did not realize that's what your amendment did. I assumed that since the tobacco industry was somewhat behind it, it was evil, it was possessed, it was malignant, it was going to