

this bill calls for in a business. If I'm a nonsmoker working in a small business, in this case defined as 15 or more, I would have an opportunity to have...I would be able to have a nonsmoking workplace, a smoke-free workplace as well as it could reasonably be devised.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. You don't believe that we should have a special smoking place then here in the Chamber.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it's my understanding that we do have an informal area of smoking and nonsmoking within this north balcony versus south balcony, underneath each one, for example.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I just feel that if we're going to impose this on business, why then we should probably impose it upon ourselves, too. So that's all I have to say at this time.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Owen Elmer, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a problem with this particular bill and its threshold at 15 employees. Having operated a small business that had, at times, as many as 30 employees, we worked together very well, kind of like just an expanded family the way things worked together. When your business grows to maybe 100 or 150 employees it's no longer that type of a relationship between the employer and the employee. I would suggest that if this bill were to be advanced, we should have a threshold of somewhere around, oh, 75 or 100 employees, where the employees do need a stronger voice against a...or to negotiate with management that is stratified and does not have as much interaction or sociability between them, and that's the extent of my comments so far. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members. Once again this is not different from what the present policy is really in the work place, except for the fact that it requires a written policy. It makes everyone certain of what the rules really are. Part of the confrontational prosp...in the work place today is people being uncertain as to where smoking and nonsmoking. And, as a result, in many cases the nonsmokers are afraid, not afraid perhaps but uncertain as to whether they should exert their