

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, did you wish to speak about the Hefner amendment? All right. Senator Wehrbein, on the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members. I'm opposed to the Hefner amendment. The reason is that it doesn't face the issue that I'm talking about. It just says that no person shall smoke in the George Norris Legislative Chamber. My bill does not say that no one shall smoke. It simply says that, if you have over 15 employees, you will have a smoking/no...a smoking policy and you will have divided area for smoking/no smoking. And the...this well could be divided here, and that would be under the rules of this. I think it makes sense. But to totally ban it here, my bill doesn't say that it be totally banned, and I don't think that this is proper to say that it would be totally banned in here. Mr. Speaker, I also would question the germaneness of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. I'll rule that it is germane. Smoking is smoking.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll accept that for now. Were you through, Senator Wehrbein? Okay. Senator Chambers, on the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it's not often that Senator Hefner and I see eye-to-eye. But, for whatever reason, on occasion there are times when our paths will converge and our minds will mesh. If this body can ban styrofoam cups which, in and of themselves, are not a health hazard, but it's been established that smoking is, not only to the smoker but to those who are in the vicinity and can absorb smoke and be a beneficiary, or a victim, if you will, of the detrimental effects of smoking, Senator Hefner's motion is in order, not in the sense of just being germane, but in the sense of being logical, reasonable and designed to advance the health of every person who will be in this Chamber. Now I have never been one to tell people how to select a poison or which poison to select. But, if it comes to that person having selected a poison and wants to share it with me against my will, then it becomes a different matter. I'm going to say what people often say in settings such as this, some of my best friends smoke. As a matter of fact, the drug czar, William Bennett, has a habit that's so bad he cannot shake it. He's addicted to cigarettes while telling everybody else what a terrible problem drugs are