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LB 976

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...much as a \$500 fine, and if we agree with this, which I am not saying we shouldn't, necessarily, but if we agree with it, now we are going to say to a student, it is illegal. If you get caught, it could be \$500 fine, it will be a minimum \$300 fine. Is there any support that will actually show where the students are afraid of that?

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And that is why, is it really a deterrent and I have a real question there.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I, Senator Wesely, you are next, but may I introduced some guests under the north balcony of Senator Dierks, and would you ladies please stand up as I read your names. First of all, we have Shirley Hestekind from Neligh, Nebraska, who is the Northwest Poppy Chairman of seven states, Nebraska, Colorado, North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Montana (sic); Karen Ohlrich of Brunswick, Nebraska, who is the State of Nebraska Poppy Chairman; Lisa Kerkman of Elgin, Nebraska, who is the American Legion Auxiliary Junior President for Nebraska; and Jan Aver of Syracuse, who is the State President of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Lynne Wild of Lincoln, who is the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary. Would you please welcome these ladies. Thank you ladies for visiting us today. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, and members, I guess, Senator Pirsch, I'd ask you to yield and follow up on some of the questions of Senator Bernard-Stevens and I have some as well, if you don't mind.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Surely.

SENATOR WESELY: You started in on this, and I guess this is the fundamental question and maybe you already addressed it and I missed the earlier speeches that you gave on this measure. Where are we at in terms of the marijuana usage in Nebraska? Have you...you talked about younger people, it is down. In terms of junior-senior high, we are seeing it go up. Do you have statistics about utilization of marijuana? We passed this lower penalty back in I think it was '77. It was described as the Vendette compromise and has held ever since. You are asking