

drugs. Yet we have a product here which does far more damage to society, so what is the principle, according to which we, as a Legislature, will operate? If we pass laws because we see our responsibility as undertaking actions and formulating policies that benefit society by removing as many evils or harmful things as possible, and encouraging as many wholesome or positive things as possible, there is no way we can fight the mouse of heroin, cocaine, and crack, and allow the mastadon of tobacco to slip by. This is, indeed, straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. There is no way that a tobacco product can be prettied up, and especially one like smokeless, as it is called. Senator Baack's attempt to amend the committee amendments is, in the words of Senator Nelson, an effort to make a bad bill a little less bad. Here is what it is like. I see Senator Hall sitting there and I don't like Senator Hall. So I take an eight inch dagger and I stick it into his back up to the hilt. The other legislators say, ooh, that is terrible, and my conscience is pricked. So what...and Senator Hall said, just like me to stab him in the back, but listen to what I am going to do in response to the criticism, which is what Senator Baack is doing. Senator Hall, if eight inches of the blade are in your back, I pull it out four inches. It is not as deep in his back as it was, is that an improvement? He wants the blade removed and the damage to be rectified. To allow these manufacturers, who know what the law is, who will stay just within the law if we pass this thing, to have two judgments against them for violating the law before they have their license lifted is totally unreasonable. You are going to tell me that these big tobacco manufacturers will not know what the law is and you give them two bites from the apple when they shouldn't have one. They should not be presented with the apple. I am opposed to Senator Baack's amendment, and since an amendment to an amendment cannot be amended, I am sure this will be attached to the bill because the tobacco industry is at work. In the same way...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that the Surgeon General, who is an employee of the federal government, can condemn all types of tobacco products and their uses, will, nevertheless, be confronted with a Congress which is constantly giving subsidies to the tobacco industry, we are faced with a situation where the Legislature, on the one hand, is going to talk about fighting