

May 8, 1991

LB 577

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right, members of the Legislature, I'm going to stick with the amendment that I'm offering. I think from the discussion you can see that it's the intent of the tobacco lobby to have this activity occur in grocery stores also, to occur in places where children go.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Here is Senator Chizek helping put this bad bill into a position to be passed and he was smart enough to get off cigarette smoking himself. He quit and I'm glad that he did. He's a role model and an example in quitting. But now he is compromising that good deed by trying to make this terrible product available to others, accessible to our children, at places where other legitimate items that are, indeed, helpful are sold and distributed. Tobacco, even though legal, is the only product which, no matter how you use it, is damaging to your health. There is no safe healthful way to use a tobacco product. It is intrinsically...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...unhealthful.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Probably there are no other speakers, so I was going to call the question on Chambers' amendments. I just want to tell, or make this mention that the...the samples that are given out, and it's not only children that we're concerned about. We all have the medical bills. And how ironic, when just an hour ago we talked about the horrors of cancer, and I'm not going to go down that list, but these are the...contribute 80 some percent to oral cancer. In fact, there are no known cases in Nebraska, that is, of oral cancer that was not caused by this product. But the samples that are being given out also are very mild compared to the pure Skoal, and the pure tobacco. They have a sweet taste to them. If it was the true tobacco, it would probably make them sick on the first time, and they would not go...use the product. So this...these samples that are given out are not the true tobacco product. Also, I was absolutely shocked, a few years ago, and I have had this confirmed to me, they also include a very minor grit so that it irritates the inside of the lining of your mouth so that you absorb the tobacco more readily into your system. And so these