

PRESIDENT MOUL: Speaker Baack.

SPEAKER BAACK: Take it up.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Speaker Dierks...or Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President, members of the body, I went to the committee when this bill was heard, and I told them that I don't make it a...it isn't my policy to testify against colleagues' bills. I just think that's not a good idea. But I made an exception for this one because I don't think the bill is a good idea. I told them at that hearing that I was not testifying in opposition to 577, I was testifying in favor of LB 48. We spent a lot of time on this floor, two years ago, trying to come to grips with the LB 48 legislation, and we were very successful. And I think that we did a very fine thing for the citizens of Nebraska when we did that. Senator Baack and I disagree pretty solidly on what is considered government interference and what is not. This isn't a lot different than providing helmets for motorcycle riders. This isn't a lot different than a lot of other situations that we do. This particular thing that we're talking about today is a product that causes death of our citizens, and the only reason it's here, the only reason this bill is here is to provide another input for the distribution of this product. Everybody here knows that when you get a youngster on this stuff he's hooked for life. It's extremely difficult for them to get off. Witness those of us who have tried to escape any other form of nicotine addiction. Now I smoke a pipe, have for 30 some years. I quit five years ago, and I want it every day. I'd like to go back and get it, but I've decided I'm going to try to stay away from it. I burn my tongue, I burn my cheek, I get a stomachache, so I decided it's not really that good. The children that get hooked on this stuff, they don't know what the prospects are for them. I think that we need to do away with this legislation. And the best way I see to do it is to indefinitely postpone it. The legislation does absolutely no good for any person in this state, except those people that are selling the product. It does no good for one person in this state, except those who are selling it. It's a product that causes addiction, it's a product that causes cancer, it has no place, I believe, this legislation, in our society. I think we did a very good thing for the citizens of our state, two years ago, with the passage of LB 48, and I really think that we'd be