

doing a very good thing for the citizens of our state if we killed this bill posthaste. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MOUL:** Thank you, Senator Dierks. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Dierks motion. Senator Hefner.

**SENATOR HEFNER:** Madam President and members of the body, I agree with the kill motion on this bill. I feel that this is a bad bill. I supported the bill a couple years ago, and I feel that smokeless tobacco definitely does cause cancer. In fact, I believe that all tobacco products cause cancer, and we certainly need to strike out against that. And what we're doing when we provide free samples, we're getting these young people hooked on tobacco products. And once they get hooked on it, it's hard to do away with it. And so I think we need to eliminate some of these articles, or some of these things that cause cancer. And by killing this bill I think we would do this. Let me share with you a boyhood experience that I had. Years ago, when I was a young boy, I grew up on a farm, and I was with a threshing run, and I was hauling bundles. And I don't know how old I was, I suppose I was 13, 14, maybe 15 years old. But as I came in with my load of bundles, I got off the rack to get a drink of water, and some of the older guys that was hauling bundles they grabbed me, and took me down, and put a small handful of snuff in my mouth. And I tell you, folks, I just about died. I thought I was going to die. And if any of you have went through that experience, you know how devastating this tobacco...smokeless tobacco product is. Like I said, it was called snuff in those days, and it probably still is, I don't know. But I learned my lesson. And I never, never took any chewing tobacco since. And I wish all our young people would have had that experience, because that would have cured them, I can guarantee you that. And so today I don't chew, I don't smoke. I used to smoke, but the more I smoked the sorer my mouth got, my gums became sore, and so I finally just quit it. And it's hard to quit. Once you get addicted to these tobacco products, it's hard to quit. But tobacco does harm and it destroys life. And I've had some friends, I've had some family that have died from cancer, and I know we say, well, government shouldn't interfere, government shouldn't interfere. But I think when it gets so bad, then it's time for us to do something. And I'm supportive of the free enterprise system. But I think some times we need to do this, and especially when our youth want to try something, and like smoking and chewing