

Wesely, Wickersham, Wehrbein, and Lamb. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'll be brief, because I've said most of what I would have to say, during the earlier discussion. But it should be kept in mind that tobacco...the tobacco industry is running into a situation where, as people become more educated, they stop using tobacco products. As they become better informed, relative to the health risks, they leave the tobacco products. Death is removing customers. So what the tobacco industry must do is replace those people who are being lost, through education, health concerns, and death. Thousands of people have died from tobacco products of one kind or another during the time that we've discussed this bill. In order to replace those people, the tobacco industry has to go toward those people who are not very well educated, those who are easily influenced, and certainly the young. Giving this product away indicates that the product has no value in and of itself. If Mercedes-Benz and BMW felt the same way about their product that the tobacco industry feels about its damnable product, Peery would not be facing two theft charges for having purchased two of those vehicles with money not his. Nobody gives away something that has value. Because the tobacco industry knows that it has a product which is intrinsically harmful, it must make it available to people at no cost. Dope pushers operate in a similar fashion. They will give drugs to young people, at no cost, knowing that once they are hooked, that which was given will be paid for a thousand times over through the attempt, by the junkie, to take care of his or her addiction. The tobacco industry has created more junkies than all other drugs combined. I'm pleased that Senator Dierks has offered this kill motion, and I definitely intend to support it.

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

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, I rise to oppose Senator Dierks' amendment. As with any member...the members of the body that have been around for a few years certainly remember this battle and its predecessors. This battle...this issue always comes down to a very basic policy decision on how this Legislature wants to operate, who we want to limit now. I know Senator Nelson wants to say, no, it doesn't, because it's...tobacco is so bad it transcends government involvement in your personal life, that smokeless tobacco is such an evil, and I'm not saying it isn't, it's such an evil we throw out the