

is prohibited under the old language. I don't think that is being enforced right now, and I don't know if this would help when I know there are a lot of adults who send their children to the stores for cigarettes or...and while that is prohibited by law, unfortunately, the minor is oftentimes just the emissary for the adult, and I think I would support your amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Sometimes amendments are offered simply to make a point. Sometimes even the introducer of the amendment is amazed when amendments are agreed to or not agreed to, depending upon the mood of the body at the time. One of the reasons for introducing the amendment is to point out what my position has been all along on this bill, the hypocrisy of those people that are opposing a bill such as 577. I heard two years ago, when we had I think it was LB 48, I heard speech after speech after speech from Senator Dierks and others saying how harmful this was to our young people, and we need to protect our young people, and stop the oral cancer, do something for our children. And everyone just rose higher and higher and higher on the moral plain until I was way down here, and everyone was way up there in the clouds high in morality. It was an awe-inspiring sight. It really was interesting. But then when we finally got to the bill, itself, and we kind of came back to reality, come to find out, you know, the bill that passed, LB 48 didn't do a darn thing for kids at all. The only thing the bill did in the final analysis was to adults, to adults. They would not be able to have free samples because, see, it was already illegal for minors. Now we just made it illegal for adults, and that is what we did. That was it, and that was the tremendous things we did for children. Now I offered an amendment, when it was on the docket previously, which is being discussed now and reconsidered. My amendment said, you know, Senator Dierks and other people, if you are really concerned about children, if the dentists out there are really concerned about them using tobacco products, I would think that you would not want to have them possess it, as in illegal drugs, things that are harmful, as in alcohol, things that are harmful. I would think that you would want to take the position, this is so bad, so evil, we do not want our children to possess it because the law now in Nebraska is that you can purchase...you cannot purchase...excuse me, you cannot purchase it, you cannot use the product, but possess it, hey, no problem. In fact, we are going to have Senator Dierks