

deter crime. I don't think vending machines deter youngsters from smoking. I think if the intent of this bill is to keep cigarettes away from kids, we have to approach it from a different angle. There is a lot of statistics out there to report that children 12 and 13-years old are engaging in sex, and I don't think that is good for children either. I think that is an adult activity. And there is teenagers or kids that are handed condoms. There are kids that are talked about safe sex. Well, in their minds, they can do all these things but they can't smoke. They can't have a cigarette. In their minds, they are not kids. In their minds, they are adults engaging in every adult activity there is to be that society has pushed them into, and then you say, look, kids, you can have sex; you can have abortions, we will show you how, but you can't have a cigarette. And then we are sending mixed signals. We are sending them mixed signals. The kids are not minors in their minds and you are not going to keep cigarettes away from them by hiding vending machines. I think that what we are doing here, we are taking away jobs from people that this is their job, vending machines, but I don't think that we are going to keep cigarettes away from the hands of minors. If it were, I would vote for this bill also. I just think it is another one of those just really feel good, we have done such a great thing, we have done our job and look what we did for the State of Nebraska. Thank you.

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

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, my, my, how things do change on this floor sometimes. My memory may not be exactly right but I remember in Judiciary Committee, in fact it was in 1987, Senator Haberman came in with a bill, LB 54, to be specific, which increased the penalty for minors obtaining or using tobacco, and so I guess things have changed since that date, but that was Senator Haberman's bill in Judiciary Committee. It may not be an interest of his any longer but we still have a serious problem with the earlier they use the tobacco, I don't care whether it is the chewing tobacco, or whatever it is, the more they become addicted and this is just one step to maybe help. I wonder if Senator Robak has seen any of the statistics on what some of the other states have done on this very same issue, the vending machines. I am not saying that it will keep the cigarettes out of every one. The example, as Senator Schimek mentioned, when the 7 and 11-year old boys went out to get it, but many, many other states, and I don't have it right square in