

January 31, 1992 LB 130

who are seated in the south balcony. They are from Troop Nos. 228 and 629 with their group representative. Will you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chambers this morning. Thank you. I will now recognize Senator Dierks followed by Senator Bohlke, Will, and Schmit. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I suppose if anybody is interested that they could probably buy some cookies up in that balcony if they play their cards right this morning. I am in support of Senator Schimek's amendment to remove the Moore amendment. I think that the bill as it was brought from committee was very viable, and I think we have removed some of the viability with this Moore amendment. We are...of course, it is difficult sometimes to remain consistent but I think you have to consider the fact that what we are trying to do is provide some protection for the youth of our state. And there is nothing about the bill that would, that I see that would be trying to limit or prevent adults from obtaining their tobacco. It would appear to me that if we can just keep one young person from starting this habit daily, we have gained a tremendous foothold on the problem. The nicotine problem in our nation, of course, is extremely difficult, and when you understand that it is the youth of our nation that the tobacco companies are depending on to keep their product sold, you understand that that is why we have to do...they have to go after the youth of our nation to keep themselves viable, and we need to protect the youth of our nation by this type of legislation. I think we start right here in Nebraska. I think that Senator Schimek has brought a good bill. I see no reason why we can't get back to the original intent of the bill and eliminate this particular provision. Senator Haberman, your...I am not sure that you are exactly right. You said that nobody does anything to enforce the bill that we passed a number of years ago that said they couldn't, youngsters couldn't buy tobacco in grocery stores. I have seen them enforce it in the grocery stores that I frequent. Youngsters cannot buy tobacco in the grocery stores that I have been in. I know that I have actually seen the clerk say you are not old enough to do this and so, well, they will say, well, mom and dad sent me in. They will say it doesn't matter, mom and dad has to come in. So they may not be enforcing it as far as taking them to court and fining them, but I think that the enforcement is taking place at the local level, in the grocery stores, and I think we are having some benefit from that legislation. So I would urge that you accept Senator Schimek's amendment and let us get back to