

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's what's more important in this society, that's what's more important for this Legislature to do. I disagree.

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

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President and members, I rise to support Senator Schimek's amendment. I will tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that tobacco killed my father and my father-in-law. And I will make it very plain that I have no use for tobacco and the tobacco industry and I think they very well are aware of that. You people in here have got to start thinking about the health of our youth and people that use tobacco and get away from the lobbyist out there that you're going to get a bunch of money from in your campaign, because I can bet you that those that are supporting the tobacco industry is going to get some healthy checks when you run for reelection. And I point to what I read by the year 2000 in the United States there will be very, very little tobacco used anymore and I can't wait. I hope I live that long to see that day. The tobacco industry preys on the schools of our United States to...for our youth who are very gullible in using tobacco and they've got to continue to raise about 5,000 people...youth of today to use the tobacco. I'm not concerned about the darn machines and everything out there that's going to be eliminated, I'm looking at the machines being eliminated for the health reasons of the people of the state and that really concerns me. The tobacco industry, it's really strange that people that in the tobacco industry which kills more people in the United States than probably anything at this point, but look at it, I look at that and other factors, the greed for that almighty dollar means more to them, to me, than the lives of our youth, and that is sad, sad, sad. I...I happened to witness, a couple months ago, when I was in the grocery store picking up some stuff and sacking it, a young lad came into the store, had food stamps; needed a package of cigarettes so he cashed, bought a little item and that cost very little, got some change back, enough so he could buy a package of cigarettes. I guess, I should have said to the cashier...the person there that that's illegal, but he couldn't have been over 11 or 12. Of course, at my age, sometimes the people look a lot younger but, as far as taxing cigarettes and tobacco, I hope we can tax them out of existence. And that's all I have to say. I ask for your support of Senator Schimek.