

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

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President and members of the body, Senator Schimek, I agree with you, there is no statute actually that says it's illegal for a minor to have cigarettes in their possession, but the bill says whoever, being a minor under the age of 18, shall smoke cigarettes or cigar, or use tobacco in any form whatever, how are they going to use it unless they have it in their possession? Now, I, myself, have driven by the schools up and down the streets and I have seen these folks take a package of cigarettes out of their pocket, put them in their pocket, light a cigarette. That's illegal. Now, 17 years ago it was just as bad because that's when they passed the law that 18 years old, you have to be 18 to buy cigarettes or tobacco, 17 years ago. And it says, 17 years ago, that you can't misrepresent your age when you buy cigarettes. And it says, 17 years ago, whoever shall sell, give or furnish in any way cigarettes or any cigarette paper or any minors under 18...now I have, I know of parents who give their kids cigarettes and they haven't been arrested. No one has ever been arrested and we have three laws on the books for 17 years and nothing has been done. Now we're going to put another one on. That's not right. That's not right. You can't legislate morality. You can't legislate something like this. Now it was said that, what do we want, vending machines or our children? Well, that's kind of a dumb question. We want children to have the best of everything. What's that got to do with vending machines, when you can go buy cigarettes at Gas 'n Shops, 7-Eleven, whatever? Everybody knows the children come first before vending machines. Now smoking is a choice. People choose whether they want to smoke or not to smoke. People choose whether they want to drink and drive or not drink and drive. This is a choice, but we're saying to these people, you're going to get cancer, therefore we're going to pass laws that you can't smoke. Well, why don't we just pass a law against cancer? Why don't we just get rid of the problem right from the start and forget this cigarette bit? Yeah, we're telling people you can't smoke because you might get cancer. Well, I can name a half a dozen other things that you shouldn't be doing too or you're going to catch something else. But we don't outlaw that. No, that's all right, go ahead and get that disease or whatever, it's fine, it's fine. So I really can't support the amendment and I would...am going to ask the body to not support the bill. And, if necessary, we'll throw some more amendments on there to outlaw some other things to show what's