

January 31, 1992 LB 130

SENATOR BOHLKE: Madam President, just very quickly. I oppose the vending machines but I do rise in defense a little bit of the tobacco industry. I think there has been quite a bit of bashing here and I'm here to tell you that I have not been strong-armed lobbied or tried to convince to vote one way or another and I think that that needs to be said. Now, I recognize the fact I said to Senator Lindsay maybe they just don't know who I am. And he said, or else they've lobbied another brunette. But I don't think that's the case and I do think that we do have to recognize and go on record and let people know that that isn't always the case and that certainly has not been the case with me. Thank you.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I had an amendment circulated to you but, in view of the number of people who are not here today and some of them, I think, would support the amendment and we're getting near the end of the day, I'm going to offer that amendment on Select File. And what it would do is say that in these establishments where liquor licenses are held but the vending machines nevertheless can be located even though minors will come, the first violation of the law by dispensing from these machines to minors would result in a 30-day suspension of that liquor license, any subsequent violations would be six months. The first time I offered the amendment it said the first violation would be six months, a subsequent violation would be permanent until a revocation. So I'm going to run with that other amendment. But I have to tell my good friend, Senator Bohlke, something here this morning. If you think that the tobacco industry has not worked this bill, Senator Bohlke, if you think that the tobacco industry has not worked this bill, I have got to reverse a statement to you that I usually say about myself, I say I may have been born at night but not last night. (Laughter.) I'm not going to say which part of it I will reverse. But these kind of bills which come to legislatures are heavily lobbied against by the tobacco industry and they don't do their lobbying only when the bill comes up. Let me tell you all why I never attend any functions put on by what's called the black legislative caucus or the legislative caucus of black state legislatures. They accept money from the tobacco industry. The tobacco industry is one of their sponsors. They buy what are called corporate...they belong to a corporate round table. They give...take them on, I call them "yatchet" rides,