

April 8, 1992

LB 835A

CLERK: 25 ayes, 9 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: Debate has ceased. Senator Beutler, to close.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Once again, Senator Lamb, members of the Legislature, I don't think there is a lot more logic or reasoning to apply to this situation. The principle is a basic principle of fairness and even treatment and we're just asking for a hearing on this bill as we've given a hearing to, or attempted to give a hearing to the other important bills that we tried to get up and discuss this session. And this is not a procedure that I would normally use. It's not a procedure I like, but it is the procedure in the crisis of this tax session that you well know you have used, you well know we have all used and it would be a shame to pick out one bill and treat it differently. So I would ask that the Chair be overruled.

SENATOR LAMB: The motion is to overrule the Chair. At this point it takes 20 votes to overrule the Chair. Those in support vote aye, those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair is overruled. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I just want to speak on this bill from this point of view. I think it's very difficult to stand up and say, well, I'm going to vote against the cigarette tax because of the things that it goes for, but I have had a lot of people write to me, people that I know. I'm not talking about those stacks of postcards or stacks of petitions, I'm talking about people that I know in my district who have called me or written me a letter who are smokers. And from their point of view they feel that there is a hit on one segment of people that started back 20 years ago, I guess, or more when they built the Devaney Center and it has continued to take one segment of the people who smoke in an effort to find money for things that we can't seem to find money for. Now I don't smoke and the people who do, if it's an addiction which everyone says it's an addiction, I understand that. It's difficult for me in some ways to understand it because I never had the addiction, but it's difficult for them to stop perhaps and we in some ways are judging them and saying,