

well, we're going to just tax you so much that you're going to have to stop. Well, a lot of them try and can't stop for various reasons, so I just feel the need to speak out from that point of view. We are not courageous enough to raise the general sales tax for some of the things we need which would be paid by everyone, not just one segment of the population. We won't do that. The other thing that I'm concerned about, and I do want to ask this of Senator Beutler or Senator Wesely, either one of you could answer this. As people stop smoking and they are, we know that. Because of the health reasons and so on people are beginning to, you know, I don't know how by thousands during the year or what, I mean every year it goes down. The income goes down, right, Senator Wesely? You can...in a way that is self-defeating to start new projects. Have you considered that? Because as we look ahead and this is what I have told these people, that it does seem to me that as we look ahead when we start a new program, I do have apprehensions about these various things and how can you be against the Environmental Trust Fund or helping the state buildings that need to have better access for disabled people and the cancer research, how can you be against that? You can't. But we are coming to the point where pretty soon it's going to be even if people continue to stop smoking and using tobacco. So I think as we go into this we should keep that in mind. Do you have, Senator Wesely, do you actually have any...I have some numbers on that and I do think we are...one of these years we're going to reach the point where we can't fund new things or maybe some of these programs we'll have to be looking for other money, so what do you...just give me a quick...

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wesely, would you respond.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Senator Crosby, you're making a good point. When I first came into the Legislature 14 years ago we raised about \$1.7 million a year in cigarette taxes and that slowly moved down. I think we're at 1.3 million a year now.

SENATOR CROSBY: All right.

SENATOR WESELY: And it is shown that, as you increase cigarette taxes, you'll see a diminishment of utilization of cigarettes which in terms of health care is a positive step, but in terms of revenue is a negative. But I think part of the reason you go to the trust fund concept and some of these cases do, maybe some ongoing but also some special projects so you have flexibility