

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Hall and Maurstad.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I have not said anything on this bill to date, and really wasn't going to. But because of some of the conversation that has taken place I've decided to come forward and say that I am in strong support of this bill, and for one main reason and one main reason only. I do believe that a person should be allowed to govern their own life when they're not in the workplace. I mean I just don't think that some of the things that are happening to employees now in this day and age ought to be happening, and I'm afraid about the long-term consequences. Yes, this bill is primarily a cigarette and alcohol bill. I mean, admittedly, I think Senator Hall would admit those are the main lawful products that we're talking about here. And I would prefer that the bill went further than that. In fact, the last couple of sessions I've introduced a bill that talked not only about lawful products, but lawful activities, that an employee shouldn't be fired because they rode a motorcycle, for instance, or did something else that maybe was not to the employer's liking. As long as it doesn't interfere with the proprietary interests, or the fiduciary interests, or something of that nature, it's none of the employer's business what the employee does on their own time. Responding a little bit to Senator Bromm, and I'm sure Senator Hall is going to. But I would think that the automobile question, and if you work for a Buick dealer and they want you to drive a Buick, I think that fits under the proprietary interests section of this bill, and I think the dealer would still have good reason for telling the employee that they needed to drive a Buick or whatever. So I didn't bring all the materials to the floor with me today, but...and I'm sure that Senator Hall has talked about this. But there are many states that already have these laws in place, and they're all around us. And we're not doing anything unusual here. I just think that most Nebraskans feel that it's not the employers' business what they do on off hours, as long as it does not interfere with their job performance. And with that, I don't think I really need to go on at length. I'd like to give the remainder of my time to Senator Hall, if he would like to have it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, you have about two minutes.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Thank you,