

February 14, 1995 LB 121

can use cigarette paper. Now if I were to give my niece, who is obviously under 18, since she's only 10, a cigarette paper, and I don't smoke but I do have cigarette papers, but if I would give her this paper to fix a fingernail so that she wouldn't have to cut it clear back to the quick, which is also extremely painful, I would be then subject to being charged with a Class III "demeanor" (sic), which carries with it a penalty of three months or \$500 in fine. So I am opposed to this amendment for this reason. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Pirsch wishes to announce that there are guests visiting the Legislature today. Mike Howell, who is the organizer or the father of the Citizen Patrol in Omaha and President of the Benson Citizen Patrol, and Bridget Howell, who is the cofounder of Omaha Neighborhood Courage are both here from Omaha. They're sitting under the north balcony. Will you both stand and be recognized, please. Thank you. Senator Preister, your light is next.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise for informational purposes. There are currently bills that are introduced that deal with minor and minors in possession of alcohol...or, I'm sorry, not alcohol but tobacco and tobacco products. Those bills are, I think, the appropriate place to address what's happening here rather than attempting to do it in a bill that may seem related but is, in my view, certainly different. So, just to let everyone know, there are already bills introduced that deal with this specific issue. The other thing that I would...and I agree completely with what Senator Chambers says and certainly with what Senator Hudkins just said too, that we should not be criminalizing our children when it's the adults who should be the responsible parties and that we should be setting the example rather than holding these children accountable for things that we request them to do. But, beyond that, I take this opportunity to say, happy Valentine's Day everyone, and in the spirit of St. Valentine and in the spirit of being a little more loving and compassionate to our hearts, our lungs and the rest of our beings and those others that we care about, if those people who continue to present amendments are genuinely serious about making this a better bill, then I would invite them, after we pass this on General File now, to come to me and let's work these details out between General and Select File and let's move on and in the spirit of St. Valentine's I offer this opportunity and extend my olive branch, at least, to anyone who seriously would like to