

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 8, 1999 LB 211

SENATOR TYSON: So, in answer...directly answer to your question, I'm sorry, I can't give you a total list.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. Thank you, Senator Tyson. I did ask Senator Chambers, I believe, that our State Penitentiary and so forth are going to a smoke-free environment and it's all...Senator Preister's already saying that it's banned. So, anyway, I was just kind of curious to see what's left besides the Capitol. But, anyway, that's all I have.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Senator Price, you're recognized on the Tyson amendment.

SENATOR PRICE: Members of the body and Chairman, I will support this amendment because I believe it's a broader stroke and, if we're going to ban Capitol smoking we should ban smoking for the safety of the people who are nonsmokers and for the safety of people who work and walk in the building. I would say that more and more young people in the nation are smoking, but more and more adults, like my friend, Senator Tyson, are seeing the light and are ceasing smoking. And it is a very difficult thing to kick the nicotine addiction, but I will be supporting the Tyson amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I want to address a couple of issues that may be problematic for some folks and, in so doing, thank Senator Tyson for introducing the amendment. I've introduced this as a bill in several different legislative sessions and have gone through a number of public hearings and even once had a debate on this floor how the mood has changed and how different it seems today than in some of those discussions. So one of the issues that came up as we have had these discussions was, one, that you can't ban smoking in the prisons because we will have riots on our hands from the prisoners going through addiction withdrawal. Well, Warden (sic--Director) Clarke has banned smoking in the prisons, in any of the buildings, a couple of years ago already and so there weren't riots and there weren't the problems, although I understand there are some challenges in dealing with some of the