

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

April 1, 1999

LB 621

SENATOR SMITH: Please.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: He indicates so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I just want to call everybody's attention to the fact that this is April 1st. I withdraw the motion. (Laughter.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I just wanted to ask Senator Smith a couple of questions. In the summertime, when we normally have fireworks, it's usually green and growing, but in the wintertime vegetation is going to be dry, and since, out in Senator Jones' district we just had some big fires, has the Fire Marshall or any of the local fire responders or anybody had any concerns, or have you thought about or planned anything for that, your response?

SENATOR SMITH: Actually, there was no opposing testimony in committee. We have been in contact with the Fire Marshall's Office, and so we do want to take the necessary precautions, because it can be drier. There also could be quite a blanket of snow out there, too, that would make it even safer than in the summer.

SENATOR PREISTER: That's a possibility, too. The other question I had is, at this time of the year, I don't know if there are going to be many people in the state, the vendors who provide the fireworks even available to sell them. And, if that's not the case, are we going to see some problems, like we do during the fourth of July, with folks going down to Missouri or...I don't know what they do in Colorado, in the western part of the state. Are we going to see those folks going out of state someplace to purchase illegal fireworks and then have that problem that we sometimes face?

SENATOR SMITH: Well a local retailer is the one wanting the opportunity to sell these here in Nebraska on a legal basis. And certainly, like Wyoming sells fireworks year-round, that's always a possibility. But I think by offering legal fireworks here in the state it would prevent those folks from leaving the