

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

April 13, 1999 LB 505

econometric models, and you can do it by doing all three simultaneously.

SENATOR ENGEL: Which gives you the most accurate?

SENATOR LANDIS: Doing all three simultaneously.

SENATOR ENGEL: Okay. The reason I asked about that whether...as far as consumption, if it was by sales, I think if...especially where most of our population is concentrated on the border, Omaha and so forth, and then up where I live, of course I'm on a border city, that people would just certainly just go across the river to purchase their cigarettes. And if they're using it on sales, then that would kind of put your survey out of balance, because those cigarettes purchased somewhere else would not be counted. So thank you for that answer. One thing I do appreciate about your bill, at least this time most of the taxes that are trying to impose are going for the right purpose. In the past, cigarette taxes have been used more as a fund raiser than anything else, very little of that has been spent for prevention is where it should be spent. And...such as the Civic Center in Omaha, and of course even the Devaney Center, and all good, worthy causes. I think they're 309 money and again, all very good causes. But I think any taxes on cigarettes, including what we already have, should be used for prevention, cancer research, et cetera, and they haven't in the past. But I do not agree with increasing the taxes, because we are not going to be competitive with those around us. And I do have a fear of the bootleggers coming in. Because wherever there is a chance to make a quick dollar, they're going to do it. And they're going to be coming in. If you are addicted to cigarettes, that is an addiction, there's no question about it. I used to be a heavy, very heavy smoker. Quit about 20 years ago, and I was getting rid of three and four packs a day. And I consider that very, very, very heavy. Maybe a lot of them burned up in my ashtrays, but that's neither here, nor there. I was getting rid of those. But the thing is I also found out, if I hadn't quit when I did, 20 years ago, I probably wouldn't be here today, because if you have cardiovascular disease, the worst thing you can do is smoke, because it constricts your blood vessels, so it is one of the smarter things I've ever done is quit smoking, and I do not believe in