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100 percent tax increase on the price of a pack of cigarettes.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I've changed direction several times here because my light's been on so long that people have talked about some of the things that I was going to emphasize, like the Washington, DC/Virginia problem. But I would like to say, Senator Bourne, I think that we're talking about a package of cigarettes costing about \$3, somewhere in that vicinity, and the price increase from this tax would be 30 cents, so that would be about a 10 percent increase. So I think maybe that's what he was referring to, but we'll let him explain that when his time comes. I would like to indicate to you, we got a chart this morning at the meeting that we went to on a briefing on this and it talked about the state cigarette excise tax rates for every state in the United States. And you can see from this tax that we're really a little bit below the average right now. This would shoot us up to above average, but we're still not going to be in the same league as Alaska or Hawaii, for instance. Both have dollar taxes. Washington State, 81.5 cents, and so forth on down the line. I'll see that you all get a copy of this. I also would like to mention that a physician, who's connected with the Nebraska Heart Institute, has written a very good letter to me and one of the things that he says in this letter is that he strongly suspects that our bordering states will follow suit. If Nebraska takes the lead on this initiative, other states on our borders will follow suit and decrease the attractiveness of traveling to purchase tobacco products. I think Senator Landis earlier mentioned that consumers really don't have the degree of cost consciousness that maybe are being attributed to them, or you wouldn't have people buying all these cigarettes in convenience stores. But, Senator Landis, I'd still like to go back to a couple of questions that I had that I just got started on earlier and they...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Landis, will you yield for a question?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...they involve the price increase and they involve...the effect of your amendment is cutting this in half, really, the amount. Does that also cut in half the number of