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way, but yet I don't want to be painted as being pro tobacco, because I'm not pro tobacco. It took me a long time to get myself off it. But lucky that my children did not take up smoking. It's been a difficult, difficult disease, an addiction, and I believe it's a gateway addiction, but I believe marijuana is a gateway addiction also and opens up to other drugs. And I've never seen anything more insidious than what has happened with marijuana to our young people in society now in their work ethic. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. As I think all of the members of this body feel, I am not in support, by any dimension, of the use of tobacco products in any form. But if, as my good friend, Senator Pedersen, just indicated, this is being sold as a mechanism to stop teen smoking, I would ask you to do me a favor and think about those years when you were between 12 and 19 years of age. I don't remember much about tobacco, but I remember a lot about alcohol. And drinking was a problem...was not a problem because of the cost of alcohol. But I will tell you that by the time I was 17 years old, part of being a 17-year-old male was being an owner of alcohol, whether it was used or not. And I will tell you that it was used very sparingly, if at all. If you really, deep down in your heart believe that increasing the price of a pack of cigarettes from whatever it is today, and I've heard some various figures, to 5 or 10 dollars a package, will make a big difference in that experimenting, I would challenge you that it won't. Now, so if that...and I am convinced, though, by the way, that it will reduce the use of tobacco in the state of Nebraska, both legally purchased, as well as that that might be imported in...from some other state without paying the Nebraska taxes. I think that there will be a reduction in the use by adults, particularly those who are of reduced economic circumstances. But if it is then not really going to reduce teenage experimentation, and in some cases adolescent experimentation and usage, then all we have left is the tax issue. And I did not support this out of committee. And my lack of support had nothing to do with the belief that tobacco was a good product and that people should use that in any form. I do not believe that taxes, state imposed taxes ought to be