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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: We have almost 40 percent of our teenagers smoking and that's what we have to go after. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Landis. Further discussion, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I think it's important that we keep in mind that of the things we deal with this is somewhat of a unique situation. It's an addiction and I think that whether smokers agree with the tax or disagree with the tax, I think they would uniformly admit that it is an addiction. It's interesting that the word "addiction" actually has a meaning from Roman legal law and it referred to any legal act where you surrendered anyone to a master; the surrendering to a master, hence, the surrendering of free will to some other force. Because the addiction, in this case, is clearly a physical need to continue taking a drug as a result of having taken it in the past. It's as simple as that. I think we would all agree that first you freely consent. Free will is at play without the body sending any strong messages to the mind. But after a short time, free will is at bay and the consent that's involved in the process is impaired, and for an unfortunate few I think that the consent is no more free than the confession of a suspect under torture. Free will is under siege by the body's screaming insistence. That fact that we're dealing with an addiction I think is no longer deniable. One report after another built on top of common sense indicates that is the nature of the problem. The second fact that I think is no longer disputable is that this addiction, rampant in our society, is causing very destructive, very destructive, is very destructive to both the individual and to their families and, consequently, to society as a whole. Because it is destructive, I believe the law clearly has a legitimate interest in and, in fact, a duty with respect to those who would peddle addictions and spread a ware that is clearly harmful. No one would deny the Legislature's duty with respect to other destructive substances: heroin, cocaine. Yes, it is a matter of degree but conservatives and liberals alike agree on how to approach those subjects, and it seems to me that we ought to be able to, one,