

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR JANSSEN: You're going to see a drop in sales, not only in...not only in cigarettes and tobacco products, but other things. Let me tell you that's going to happen because people will drive a mile to save a buck. Let me tell you, they will. I know that from being an independent grocer in a small rural town in Nebraska. People think they can drive to the city to save a dollar on their total grocery bill. And don't think they try. They are not going to when you figure how much gas costs. That's the way people are, and let me tell you that's going to happen. You will see a decline in the sale of tobacco in the state of Nebraska but you will not see a decline in the consumption of the tobacco itself. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Matzke, LB 505.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I am always amused by Senator Tyson's historical knowledge and I appreciated his comments in opposition to tax increases. He missed one good story. He didn't tell us about Lady Godiva. I think she...I think she did something in opposition to tax increases also. I think we are missing the focus in this, some of the discussion that we've heard this morning. I think the real issue in this bill is children. Senator Landis has pointed this out, and he raised a question as to whether any of us had 14-year-old children. I think my hair is too gray to qualify for that, but I do have a 14-year-old granddaughter who has sat over here with her father when her father was doctor of the day many times, and I've tried to look at this bill through the eyes of a 14-year-old granddaughter. There is no question, the evidence is overwhelming that our children are just absolutely bombarded with commercials making it look desirable, classy, cool to smoke. And what this bill really does, it's not so much a matter of taxation. What it is a matter of is funding a program that is going to offer education and information to our 12- and 13- and 14-year-old children. What they are hearing now is only what they see on TV and national advertising. I think that, and it's a matter of fairness, we need to provide our children the rest of the story, the other half of the story, and I think that is what this bill is all about. The statistics have shown actually what...you can't argue with the statistics, Senator Baker. I disagree with