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SENATOR LANDIS: They weren't smoking last year and they're smoking this year, 8,000 of them. Of those 8,000, one-third, over 2,000, almost 3,000, will die of a smoking-related illness; 3,000 deaths that will occur because kids started smoking. When you raise the price of cigarettes there is a decrease in the people who start and the people who consume. Do the math. You'll save lives.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Landis. On the Beutler amendment, Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. First off, I'd like to say I'm grateful that I did not have to follow immediately Senator Aguilar and thereby invite unfavorable comparisons between my presentation and his, unfavorable to me, that is. I commend him on the presentation he made. I have, I think as with a lot of you, wrestled with this issue, trying to decide what to do on this. My decision is to support both the amendment and the bill. I certainly acknowledge that there are difficulties with this approach which I think have been pointed out very ably. Certainly one of the basic ones is how far do we, as citizens, go in trying to protect citizens from themselves? We, in this case, we are...we are taking an action as citizens to try to direct our behavior. We have not been totally consistent on that. We do require helmets for motorcycle operators, but we don't make seat belts a primary offense. So certainly we've gone different directions on that score. Another argument that's been pointed out is, as Senator Tyson said, the law of unintended consequences or, I think differently stated, it simply won't work. You can implement this sort of a law and people who want to will avoid it, and certainly is a consideration. The loss of tax revenue was mentioned as a difficulty. That one, I think, is somewhat easier to deal with. I think if you're serious about taxing an activity to reduce its use then you ought to be comfortable with the fact that you're going to receive...in fact, you ought to hope that you're going to receive less revenue, because that's really the reason you're about it. Senator Redfield raised another, I think an important question, is who should carry the burden of the expense of educating or whatever else it takes to prevent people from smoking or using tobacco? I don't know that I agree 100 percent with her that she...I think I heard her say