

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 12, 2000 LB 505

legislatures around the state have learned that lesson, although from time to time we need to learn it again. But there is an anecdote to the law of unintended consequences and that, I think, is the law of incremental attention. And by that I mean simply that you look at your problem and you look at your ways of solving the problem and you move towards the solution of the problem in incremental ways, in a variety of ways. And as you go along, you measure each time what result you've gotten that you intended, and what results you got which you did not intend. And I think that this particular bill is a kind of incremental attention to the problem. It has a higher tax, it is making it more expensive to buy the product but it's incremental. It has a large education component. Education is one of the ways that we try to improve our society and it has an incremental approach there, advancing along that front. It's putting more money into law enforcement. Incrementally, a little more is going to be done there. Finally, it's putting more into research and incrementally the solutions that might relate to new information and new technologies will be incrementally approached for solutions in that area. And as a part of what goes on this year, perhaps Senator Stuhr's bill is another bit of incremental attention that we need to give to this issue this year. You can decide that later. But I hope the feeling you have after all this debate and after what Senator Landis has explained to you, is that what is being done is not likely to have unintended consequences, and if there are some, because of the nature of the approach, they will be small and we can draw back. But if we do not move forward and see if good results can be obtained, then we will have nothing to look at and we will lose the possibility of advance...of advance in an area where we badly need to make progress. Thank you.

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

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, this is a very difficult issue to consider. Philosophically it's full of contradictions, and unfortunately, when we come to tobacco, both the United States and the state of Nebraska have been guilty of a bit of hypocrisy. We subsidize the tobacco farmers and yet we want to put warnings on everything to tell them that their product is harmful. We're