

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

January 12, 2000 LB 505

overindulgences and suggested that he doesn't want to have to pay anything. Maybe he was making the point that he should not have to for the health problems that they develop. But the basic difference here is that if food is properly utilized, it is not going to produce a health problem. Even though I'm what would be called a teetotaler, I have read that moderate consumption of alcohol can be beneficial, so the drinking in and of itself is not harmful. But when it comes to tobacco...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...even when the product is used in the way recommended by those who manufacture it or treat it or process it, it is not going to be healthful. There is no healthful way to ingest a tobacco product. Before I sit down, I want to remind Senator Tyson how Sir Walter Raleigh weighed smoke for the Queen. He weighed an amount of tobacco and then he burned it, then we weighed the ashes and he said the difference in weight between the unburned tobacco and the burned tobacco is the weight of the smoke. Is it true or not? Well, really, what difference does it make? But anyway, I'm going to support Senator Landis' amendment and his bill with the only reservation being the tax is not high enough.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bromm, on the Landis amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I came into this today not knowing for sure how I would vote and trying to listen as much as I could. I certainly wanted to be consistent with my vote last year which was not to place a large tax in this area. I was not convinced that it was the thing to do. And I have listened to the extent that I could today and there have been some excellent, excellent comments made by both sides. Almost every speaker has persuaded me, except for the smuggling argument. I'm having a little trouble buying into that, but maybe if I think about it, I'll even buy into that one. As I was driving in this morning fairly early, one of the radio programs, talk shows or whatever they do early in the morning, one of the announcers got on a kick about his property tax bill and suggested he's going to send a resolution or a bill down here to introduce to change the name of the state to and