

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

February 17, 2000 LB 1436

they see is the best approach to cut smoking, both teen and adult smoking. Here we're taking one piece of that and we're directing that without looking at all the other parts of that particular process, that particular body. So I want to...I want to caution the body at the...as strongly as I can that if we open this one door yet this session we could have numerous bills all funded through this Excellence in Health Care Trust Fund. I don't think that's the way to go. If this bill was here a year from now and we have set forth a process that would bring in perhaps some legislative...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...oversight then I think it would be appropriate. But for this time, at this place, I don't think it is, and I would urge the body not to fund it with those funds. If we're going to fund it, let's fund it with a one-cent increase in the tobacco tax and I...that it's not going to break anybody's pocket. It's a minor increase. You see more fluctuating...more fluctuation at that at the grocery store in a pack, in a carton of cigarettes, and, again, then direct it towards that teenage smoking. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Baker, on the committee amendments to LB 1436.

SENATOR BAKER: I'm speaking to the bill, the amendments and proposed amendments and all I believe, but thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Senator Jensen was looking at me while he was speaking a good part of the time because I think he knows what I'm going to say, after visiting with him yesterday. But, being one of the new people in the body, I, for one, would like to go back and visit some more the idea of taking 50 percent of the Excellence in Health Care Trust Funds and being able to control them through the legislative process. I believe when this money is all finally distributed to the states, and I believe Senator Jensen said there was going to be interest on this of \$70 million or some such a matter, depending of course of the rate of return, but I really think we'd ought to control a good part of that as a legislative body. Not that I don't trust the...the people on the trust fund making those decisions, but the political pressure and so on, we're used to it, they're