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need it. It's funny how people say, our constituents don't have an input. When I was listening to Senator Thompson's idea there on increasing the tax dollars on cigarettes amount, 20 cents, or whatever, 25 cents, I thought of my people at home. I thought of my 300 grade school children I spoke to a month ago, how intense they were, and how this meeting, they had a three- or four-hour meeting up in SEM (phonetic) on the harmful things that tobacco does to our bodies and so on. And I thought of them when she was talking. How do you go against those kind of people? Our people do make a difference. It isn't always just our thoughts. We have to really, really stop and think what we're doing here, like Senator Johnson said. Do I want to pick on cigarettes? No. I think it's acting like a bully. I know we had a bully once in school and I hated this kid. He picked on us, and that's the way I kind of look at us doing to cigarettes. We're picking on, like Senator Landis said, the 20 percent, or whatever. I think we're being a big bully here, but where do you get the money otherwise? Where do you get the money otherwise? I'd liked to have the alcohol thing before the cigarettes. Alcohol does a lot more harm than tobacco issues as far as I'm concerned. It makes us pick on our families. It makes us kill people on the highways. It makes us do strange things when we get a drink or two in our system. All cigarettes do is kill us individually, outside of a little second-hand smoke, which I like to smell. That's beside the point. But, anyway, I think this issue should be a slam dunk just like the one previous to this here. I think we could quit talking right now and call the question and vote on this here, and I think it's over with. But I guess I won't do that because I've already talked here. But it's an issue, that, hey, we need the dollars, we are used to it, so be it. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Beutler.

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to support Senator Brashear's amendment. But I do not think that it goes far enough, and I hope on Select File we can have a further discussion of that. I think the appropriate action is probably Senator Hartnett's bill which takes us back to the 1997 income tax level. And let me tell you why. Over the years, over all the years that I've been in this