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SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. I was going to waive off but I thought since only Senator Janssen and I have gotten up to speak against this, I'd better take advantage of this. I have no opposition to the Nebraska smoke-free program or whatever it is called. I do have opposition to adding new taxes to cigarettes, or for that matter to anything. I don't...we need to do as minimally possible to our tax base in terms of increasing revenues so as to get out of this situation. As good as this program may be, I can't justify adding three additional cents to cigarettes, after we raised it on a temporary basis a year ago 30 cents, and we're going to extend that. At least that's what's in this bill we're discussing. And the Governor, again, has advocated for an additional 20 cents. That's the only revenue he'll support is the continuation of the 30 cents and then the new 20 cent tax. Maybe we'll come to that. I hope not. But my point is, is if you do another earmark, you've lost some opportunities to solve the budget problem. This is not the time to be expanding programs. This is the time to be eliminating them, as hard as that is, as difficult as that is. The advocates of this measure have said that...they talk about in 1999 the smoking rate was 37 percent. By 2001, the rate dropped to 31 percent. And at the same time, as I understand it, and Senator Jensen can get up and correct me if he wants, but I thought they stopped on the national level the advertising to use. I thought they'd banned that. Do they still have cigarette advertising in the magazines? You bet. Do they gear towards the youth? As I understand it, that's part of the master settlement. They do not do that. Again, I am not saying this is a bad program. I'm simply saying that we can't afford it. We can't afford to educate our kids. We can't afford to adequately fund K-12 education, and then we're going to add an earmark to cigarette tax to fund a nonsmoking or a smoking cessation program? That doesn't make sense. Again, this very morning we eliminated a tax that aided municipalities and that was \$3 million. A 3 cent cigarette tax is \$3 million. Again, I'll give you the list, anybody that wants it. I can tell you what every community received from that MIRF money that we eliminated this morning. If we were going to add a new tax, I would have just left the one on the MIRF alone. And had I known, unfortunately I didn't