

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

April 12, 2005      LB 480

sandwich in that establishment, he would not, or she would not, would not be able to operate that deli. I see where this bill would not allow that to happen. You know, when we argue about the tax dollars that come from tobacco in this state, do you realize that every carton of cigarettes, the state and federal tax is \$6.40, and that's on an average of \$30 a carton, and I don't believe there are many cigarettes that you can buy for \$30 a carton now. But let's use that figure, that \$6.40 on that carton of cigarettes, that we clamor around in this Legislature trying to find homes for those dollars. Then you also have sales tax--\$1.50 on a carton of cigarettes that goes for the state sales tax. And you know what we do with the sales tax. We argue and fight about where that's going. So I just want you to bear in mind that there are other ramifications that are going to come about with this legislation. Now you could...I would imagine you could ban smoking in that grocery store, but if you're selling that product in there, that's kind of hard to do, too. How are you going to monitor everybody that goes in and out of the...of that store, make sure they don't sneak a cigarette while they're in there? Either that or you'd have to discontinue the deli section in your establishment. When I first started in the grocery business, there was no such thing as a deli. I mean, you sold the dry goods and canned goods and so on, and they left the store. Didn't have a deli. But, in order to compete with the large supermarkets, you had, the small operators, had to do this very same thing. Now there are Hy-Vee stores, so on, so forth, that have regular restaurants within those establishments. Will they be able to...they will have to ban smoking in that...in that large supermarket, also. So I just want you to remember that there are other ramifications that can come from this piece of legislation. I don't smoke. My family doesn't smoke. But when you start doing something that...people can take care of themselves, proprietors can take care of it themselves...they don't have to allow smoking. People don't have to go into a establishment that is too smoky. Here we are again telling people what they can and can't do. And with that, I'd give the rest of my time to Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. I appreciate that. I've not been very vocal on this bill. I do stand up in