

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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I guess you could also say, it's not a need. We don't have, as a population, the need to go into a restaurant. We don't have the need to go into particular restaurants. The government is saying, well, some of us don't like to go in smoky restaurants, so let's just eliminate smoking, and that way those poor business owners won't have to make the decision themselves. I think it's about the business owners making the decision themselves. If they want to be responsible, if they want to be practical, they...they're allowed to do that. If they think smoking in their restaurant is fine, that's great. I don't think this body should impose our will on that. It's obvious this bill is going to take 33 votes. I don't know whether LB 480 has 33 votes. But the debate is interesting, and I will help continue that debate until we get to the point that we can all vote. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Further discussion. Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Thank you, members of the Unicameral Legislature. You know, Senator Mines, I appreciate your philosophical difference of opinion. I respect everyone on this floor who has a difference of opinion. And I think that's what it is. And I maybe have the philosophy that all aspects of the whole smoking issue become a part, a serious part of public policy when we look at not only the millions, but the billions of dollars that are spent by this state because of the effects of smoking. It doesn't make a difference whether you talk about smoking per se, as Senator Mines talked about, whether you talk the effect of secondhand smoke, which affects every person who doesn't smoke. It's all a matter of public policy. The will of the people of Lincoln, I think, needs to be discussed, because I think it really jumped up and slapped all of us in the face to realize that probably this is the way the people of the state of Nebraska feel. I don't think anyone realized that the overwhelming vote that came out of the public, the voter in Lincoln, Nebraska, would be as overwhelming as it is. But I do think it comes down to an issue of smoking per se. And it is legal. I wish it wasn't. I would vote right now for it not to be legal. Will I support Senator Bourne's amendment? Senator Bourne is harassing the bill. He'll admit it if you go