

April 18, 1983

LB 192

CLERK: 11 ayes, 17 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Very well, Senator Warner. Senator Warner. It is all right, we are on Select File. An amendment to the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: My amendment is a very simple amendment. It would simply increase the cigarette tax from eighteen cents a pack to twenty cents a pack. It would take the two cents increase, put it in the 309 monies for deferred capital maintenance. That is it. Now 309 funds, you all know what 309 money is, right? Does anybody not know what it is? Everybody knows what it is. 309 money is money that we have allocated annually for purposes of our deferred maintenance program. All we want to do is to make sure we have got money out there to put new roofs on buildings that have got bad roofs, to put new tuck-point on chimneys that need tuck-point, and so on and so forth. 1977-78 we allocated \$4.5 million to deferred maintenance; 1978-79, \$6 million; 1979-80, \$7 million; 1980-81, \$6 million; 1981-82, \$3.7 million; this current year, \$1 million, \$1 million. You see we have been cutting back on deferred maintenance money, been cutting it way back. We had before the Appropriations Committee this last year, we had our agencies submit their deferred maintenance needs. They submitted deferred maintenance needs of about \$1.5 million alone for energy conservation; about \$300,000 alone for handicapped access; and about \$15 million just to bring buildings up to snuff. Now what we have done over the last three years is we simply have been reducing that deferred maintenance money. All this does is it takes two cents cigarette tax. It is going to increase that tax from eighteen cents a pack to twenty cents a pack which would then be in line with what Iowa's tax on cigarettes is. It is going to increase it two cents a pack, takes that two cents which is about three million bucks a year, puts it into deferred maintenance program, puts it right in the 309 program. It gives us some money to continue to update our buildings, upgrade our buildings, simple as that. We have a history of using cigarette tax for that purpose and I am simply putting money back into the pot where it has always been. Move the amendment.