

cost of smoking a pack of cigarettes was somewhere approaching \$2 a pack in terms of the health care cost associated with that activity. And, so, although I respect the choice of cigarette smokers to smoke, I think we have to understand the impact it has on us, and I think raising the cigarette tax for whatever reasons in terms of revenue raising I think has some validity, but health related costs of cigarette smoking are much greater than the increase we are talking about here today, and so that perspective I don't think has been talked about, and although there are some healthy individuals like Senator Chizek, and Senator Pappas, and others who smoke and are healthy, there are many others who are not as lucky and fortunate. So I think, for that reason, I would support the increase in the cigarette tax, and also indicate, though Senator Johnson has linked these with the Ak-Sar-Ben and farm equipment exemptions, I don't think any of us should feel tied to any sort of linkages here. I think what we are doing is independent and separate action to deal with the question of revenue raising, and appropriate taxation levels, and dealing with the health aspects of cigarette smoking and smokeless tobacco use, and for those reasons and those reason alone, I am supporting this increase, and whatever other linkages have been spoken to I don't feel bound by.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. I understand we have a priority motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Warner would move to bracket LB 730.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the motion that is up there is to bracket the bill until the Speaker determines in setting the agenda that major tax policy bills taking effect after July 1 of 1987 are on Select File. I was not particularly aware, but certainly not unaware, that there was probably some, I believe the word, "linkage" between several of these bills, and it seems to me that if there is some linkage, they ought to be close enough that the chain can reach from bill to bill. And so that would be one reason. But there is a more fundamental reason that I would like to see at least these major bills in a package, and interestingly enough, it is not much different than what Senator Lynch was talking about except he was talking about the appropriation bills. As a matter of fact, appropriation bills are always in a package with the exception of deficits. They are there as a group so the body knows the total amount of potential appropriations that