

February 19, 1974

SENATOR PROUD: The hospital has the right to post what they want.

PRESIDENT: I'm sorry, Senator Proud, I didn't catch that. All right. The motion now is to return the bill to Select File for specific amendment, that would be to strike the reference to hospital. Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: In order to be agreeable, I move that my remarks be stricken from the record.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers. The motion before us is to return LB600 to Select File for specific amendment. That would be to strike that portion that relates to hospitals.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I object to the bill being returned to Select File for any type of specific amendment. This is a bill which is not going to hurt the smokers. They have every opportunity to smoke in other places that they want to. This is a bill that a lot of people can get a lot of publicity from by appearing to take a strong position in behalf of the rights of people without really stepping on anybody's toes. As a matter of fact, it might them in good with the tobacco industry which is a powerful special interest group in its own right. I think we ought not tinker with the bill or fiddle with it. The thing to do, it's on final reading now, it hasn't been read yet because I was upstairs. It hasn't been read yet?

PRESIDENT: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We should go ahead and read the bill and vote on it and I think those of us who have any principles in this area, whether they're pro or con, we ought to vote according to what we believe. Those who are in the limbo area where it doesn't make any difference one way or the other, whether the bill passes or not, but it can be used like a tennis ball, those people will decide the way they're going to vote based on how many red and green lights show on the board. So, I would ask you to oppose any motion to return this bill to Select File for any purpose. We ought to go ahead and read it and vote on it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson and then Senator Kelly.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose the return of the bill to Select File for specific amendment. I think the hospital amendment is vital. I don't think it will create any problems, Senator Proud, and I certainly appreciate your point. The hospitals now hang various signs for various obvious reasons on all kinds of doors in the hospital and they now have that prerogative, I believe. Hopefully, this will encourage them to use it in this instance. I really don't believe....

(End of Belt #3)

(Begin Belt #4)

it'll create any problems. I think this is an important part of the bill. I assure you that this is important to some hospital patients. As I mentioned the other day, as a former smoker, now a non-smoker and I can tolerate a lot of smoke. But, sometimes even to me it becomes almost intolerable. There are people who cannot and this hospital amendment is important.

PRESIDENT: Now, Senator Kelly and then Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues...question of Senator Proud.