

April 2, 1979

LB 344

who want these kind of laws say, well, I did my share. I got a law passed and that is the end of it. So I oppose 344 on the basis that we have more serious things to do. We have the budget. We have other bills and I think we should consider those and defeat LB 344.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak to the bill?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the bill, rise to oppose my good friend, Senator Stoney, and the reason I do this because I feel that we have too many rules and regulations at the present time. I think the concept of it is good. I am not a smoker and sometimes I don't like to have people blow smoke in my face either but I don't feel we can pass a law to this effect. I think that if some restaurants and other business places want to go against or want to have special places where they can serve their people in a nonsmoking area, that is fine, but let's let the free enterprise system settle this. I realize to enforce this will take additional law enforcement officers and at the present time they have other things to do that are far more important, therefore, I would urge you to vote against this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, you haven't spoken yet. Do you wish to speak on the bill?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, Mr. President, I am strongly in sympathy with the intent of the bill and I guess I will have to be honest, I don't know which way I am going to vote. I am a nonsmoker and I have experienced the rule of all nonsmokers. If there are ten people sitting in a circle and nine of them are smoking all in different directions and one is a nonsmoker, you can absolutely know that all smoke will flow to the nonsmoker. In the Legislature I have noticed people over there, over there, over here and over here and all smoke flows to the nonsmoker here. Question, though. How far do we go? How far do we legislate in trying to make one person's conduct or natural activity regulate it so that they don't offend or upset another person? I don't know but I have some serious reservations I guess about enforcement. Have we addressed and, Senator Stoney, I would like to ask you a question. Have we got any information as to enforcement difficulties, enforcement costs, this type of thing? How functional is it?