

April 2, 1979

LB 344

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right, do you think one of these cowboys might more prefer the company of a lady than of a cigarette?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Not always.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, thank you, Senator DeCamp. Members of the Legislature, you don't have a problem of men forcing their way into women's restrooms and in a lot of instances, Senator Hefner... I mean, do you have a restaurant? Thank you. For public relations purposes, Senator Hefner and others would be benefited by having a law that tells them that there cannot be smoking or these conditions must be met. Then it is not Senator Hefner or other proprietors establishing it as a principle. But, Senator DeCamp, there are some very large people who come into the barbershop, some of them even play football for Nebraska's football team, and I tell them even now when they get in my chair, I don't want you to smoke and they don't smoke. So it does not become a situation where there is going to be a physical confrontation and in a barbershop people generally want to smoke but even without a law I don't let them smoke in the chair that I work in and the point I am trying to get across. Once it is known that this is the way it is and these situations are established as, in fact, some of them are established now, great problems do not arise. Senator Haberman was worried about an officer trying to arrest somebody for smoking instead of catching a burglar. If the officer knew that he had a choice of arresting a burglar or a smoker, he would take the smoker, Senator Haberman, because there is no danger there generally, but they will arrest people who have been caught shoplifting and the item shoplifted can be the value of a nickel, Senator Haberman. So for very small amounts they don't mind requiring an officer to come to the premises and make an arrest but I think that is a nonissue. When we say without showing a connection, that there are too many rules and regulations in society, that is a nonargument and need not be addressed at all, but when I hear people make that declaration as a basis for voting against a bill like this, I have to ask them why they are concerned, Senator Kahle, about litter bills. Now paper on the highway does not cause accidents. It is only unsightly so we ought to allow people to litter with paper and those kinds of things that don't cause accidents, that cattle will not ingest and wind up with a problem. But to not destroy the eye appeal of the environment, litter bills are enacted into law and there are criminal sanctions imposed. So why would we say the ground is more