

April 2, 1979

LB 344

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Well, but then in other words the people that paid for the building cannot smoke in it now?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Those that paid don't get to play, huh?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Remember that famous saying that you used to tell me....?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Which one?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: ...that Devaney built this with one carpenter and one package of cigarettes.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, Senator Fitzgerald.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte, do you wish to talk? It is almost... The hour is almost up. I have Senator Venditte's light and Senator Haberman's light.

SENATOR VENDITTE: I will be very brief, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I was surprised at Senator Koch's willingness to want to close debate earlier in the discussion on LB 344 and, Senator Haberman says we have more important things to do. Ladies and gentlemen, when we are talking about the health and welfare of the people of this state, what can be more important? Do you know what lung cancer is? Have you ever seen anyone suffer from lung cancer? And what is the single most important cause of lung cancer today in this country? It is cigarette smoking. I think it is important and I think it is important that we take the time in the Legislature to discuss this particular matter. And I say it is important because people who don't smoke are probably more, more so in it. I don't think there is any question about it. The average cigarette for example, is lit for eleven minutes, eleven minutes, and for a period of thirty seconds that smoker is enjoying the inhalation of that cigarette. In other words, what I am saying is the smoker has that cigarette in his mouth for only thirty seconds of the entire eleven minutes. What about the other ten and a half minutes? Where does that smoke go? Well, it funnels right back to that person who doesn't smoke. For people in here in this Legislature who have some upper respiratory problems and who have to face those people who smoke, I feel sorry for you. Perhaps maybe next year in the Legislature we could have the north half of this particular chamber designated for those people who smoke and the other half for those who do not smoke. Senator Stoney, good luck on your bill and hopefully we can vote this matter up or down this morning.