

you still wish to talk on the amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, having voted for the first amendment just completed, I'll vote for this amendment as well. I owe the supporters of this bill an explanation because in fact I have told people that I would support LB 333 and every now and then on the floor you just run up against a darn good argument, one that you have run by yourself and thought about and say, you know, I've got to wrestle with that one, but you let it slide and unfortunately those arguments have been put with such clarity and force and my own recent actions could not be explained consistently if I had not supported the Chambers amendment. I voted two years ago to strip out of an alcohol tax bill increase, the appropriations for that money, not because I didn't think we needed alcohol programs, but because I didn't want to earmark that fund inside the revenue package. This year in the Revenue Committee I voted to strike the earmarking of the cigarette money in LB 190 that was going to go for some very good purposes which I believe in and I want to have that happen. I want those ends to be accomplished just as I want the end to this bill to be accomplished, but I struck that money because of the form of earmarking that it contained and later on in about three or four bills we're going to have that bill come back up here in LB 190 and in fact, right now we're arguing LB 190 in another form and that is, do we earmark money for limited purposes from general sources? And I made a decision in committee on 190 and it was only this morning when I realized that in fact this is much the same issue that I am being forced to face. I had made the conclusion in committee at that time. It would be inconsistent for me this morning to choose between those good ends because this is a means versus ends question and I support the end. The end is assistance, enforcement, education to end child abuse. The means I was willing earlier on to accept, but I find from the course of my own actions that I have not been willing to accept the same means in other areas for other very legitimate ends and that point has been brought home to me forcefully today and I have chosen to be consistent at the price of breaking some previously made arrangements and discussions on supporting 333. Let me tell you that I, too, do not want to turn 333 into a dead letter. It has a valuable end that we should strive to accomplish and let me tell you, we can accomplish it this year. There is money to be had for this end in our