

the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I am going to have a Page pass this out. The amendment that I am offering is, according to Eric Will who works with me, a technical amendment that has been brought to us by the Department of Revenue. I alluded earlier to the issue of the cigarette dealers' fee for collecting the cigarette tax. Right now we currently allow the cigarette dealer 5 percent of the 18 cent tax collected. He gets 5 percent of the taxes that he collects, which right now are 18 cents on a package of cigarettes. Well, obviously, this bill will increase the amount of cigarette tax from 18 cents to a maximum possibility of 26 cents per package. And the question is, should the cigarette dealer be allowed that same 5 percent figure on the new taxes that he collects or should it be something less than that? And the Revenue Committee said it should be something less than that. Five percent is probably pretty high to begin with but for the additional tax it should only be 4 percent. That is what the amendment does. My recollection is that we have somewhat similar language in the committee amendment but that this simply according to the Department of Revenue makes the committee amendment work correctly. And with that, I would offer the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lundy, please.

SENATOR LUNDY: (No response.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. Speaker, colleagues, would Senator Johnson respond to several questions?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I sure shall, Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Thank you, Senator Johnson...Senator Vard Johnson, by the way.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Your technical amendment, little