

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would oppose bracketing it at this point. Certainly it seems to me that the argument that has been made that if the bill is not put into effect now, you are...and if any...and the federal tax goes off, obviously, you are talking about an eight cents increase next time. But it would make a great deal more sense to me if the bill is bracketed if it is to be bracketed on Final Reading, not on General File. It would make a great deal more sense to me to see what form you want to have that bill in. If it is still going to have a bunch of earmarking in it, then maybe the bill just ought to be indefinitely postponed right now, forget about it. But I would rather see what shape the bill is in, what form it's in and then bracket it if that is what you want to do on Final Reading, so those who want to have it enacted in January if the eight cents goes off, that could be done the first two or three days after we got back, or as soon as the Speaker has scheduled Final Reading when we come back. If it stays on General File, why the odds are that it would be February or March before...at least February before it would be passed. So I would urge you to reject bracketing now, reserve that concept for Final Reading and let's put the bill in a reasonable decent shape at this stage on General File and not just leave it hang.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, let me also rise to oppose the motion to bracket filed by my good friend, Senator Remmers, and make only a brief point. If there is any chance that that eight cents is going to come off of the cigarette tax, I think we clearly want to be in a position here to take advantage of the \$3 million and more that Senator Johnson referred to and surely many of the bills we debated earlier today and will debate later this week will not have nearly the significance of this bill even if there is only a chance that we will benefit from that \$3 million. Let me say additionally that there have been some studies, some convincing studies conducted at the federal level that have related the price of cigarettes to the demand for cigarettes, particularly among adolescents. These studies indicate that whether or not an adolescent buys a pack of cigarettes depends greatly on the price and those studies can predict almost to a pack how many fewer cigarettes are going to be purchased in Nebraska by adolescents if we leave that tax where it is rather than