

earmarking is nothing new as far as cigarette tax money is concerned. We also have one cent cigarette tax money that goes for the Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Fund. And, Senator Rex, don't ask me what that is, please. We have one cent devoted to the Nebraska Cancer Research Fund. And then there is the University Buildings Renovation and Land Acquisition Fund, in addition to the State College Buildings Renovation and Land Acquisition Fund. And as an end, we have the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund. So earmarking taxes from cigarettes is nothing new and I do not know why some people are so hard-nosed in thinking that they should stop it at this point. I think we might be bordering on being hypocritical in this regard. Cigarette tax money can be used for the betterment of all Nebraska and I suggest to you that how can we better Nebraska than by helping our scholarship fund in this day and age when parents are being hard put finding a way of putting their children through college. And another thing is the Land, Soil, Waters Development Fund and the Economic Development Fund. As a matter of fact, I have seen what DED can do in my town when the "pack" was closed and they helped people train and get their jobs back. I think there is a great opportunity, a great potential out there for economic development funds that we just haven't begin to utilize and this would offer us a splendid opportunity to do so without delving into the general fund in the event the feds do not take up this tax. I would oppose the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would rise to support the committee amendments and to comment on a couple of aspects of earmarking. Earmarking is the way to lock in, set the highest priority for the future of limited state funds. You earmark the revenue for a specific purpose and then it becomes much more difficult to enact. Secondly, it is not an unusual procedure to attempt to tie a tax increase and a tax expenditure purpose together in the hopes of may being able to get the necessary 25 votes. Some people vote for the purpose that is being proposed. Others vote for increase in the tax. Those two considerations ought to be done separately. They are separate matters. If it is proper to tax cigarettes at 26 cents, then that ought to be made the decision, whatever the purpose of that revenue is to be. If it is proper to fund these three items over and above any other program of state government, then that