

anymore, but retail stores that collect our taxes and we also have a handful of cigarette wholesalers who collect the cigarette tax. And what they do is they pay the tax on the cigarettes even before they have sold the cigarettes to the retailers. So they are always advancing to the state the money that they pay in the way of taxes. In addition, you know these little blue stamps...these little, I shouldn't say the blue stamps, those are federal stamps, but if you look at the bottom of a cigarette package, you will discover an imprinted stamp. They imprint those stamps on and every year they show the Revenue Committee how it costs them far more than the 5 percent allowance that we give them to remit that tax and to put those stamps on. And every year they have shown those same statistics to a lot of senators in here and we have come to believe them. So for that reason, I would have to oppose your amendment.

SENATOR DECAMP: I guess I am learning more about how this system works and between now and Select File I sure will try to find out more about it because the remarkable thing to me is if these figures they tell you are true where they lose money every year doing this, then why would they deliberately work so hard to make sure they get to do it and get to keep it that way? Because this is almost like the people telling me, people go into farming just so they can lose money and I haven't found anybody that deliberately goes at it with that goal, and that is why I say if they are doing this year after year and losing money and competing so hard to get this job to lose money and donate to the state, we have got some remarkable individuals here and we maybe should be cultivating them and developing more like them. And so I will withdraw the amendment for now but maybe on Select File when I have more data offer it again.

SENATOR BEUTLER PRESIDING

SENATOR BEUTLER: The amendment is withdrawn. Senator Haberman, we are back on the committee amendments. Did you wish to speak?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to answer Senator Chronister's question. He asked, what would the one cent of such tax be placed in Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund be used for. And, Senator Chronister, the only thing I can come up with is this might be Mr. Mahoney's discretionary fund.