

so often what happens is you have got strong clients and weak cases and it is the strong clients that prevail. Now, darn it, we have to have a system which allows all the good cases to be strong and to be successful and you do that through the regular appropriational process. You don't allow...we don't allow an end around through earmarking. I think this bill should be killed.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Chronister.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After listening to my good friend, Vard Johnson, who up until ten minutes ago was fully in favor of this bill until the earmarking feature became evident, he mentioned something about let people know that this Legislature controls the purse strings. Well, in that event, shall we tear down the Devaney Sport Center? That was built with cigarette tax money. Should we tear down the State Office Building? That was earmarked money. The Downtown Educational Center in Vard's City of Omaha, plainly earmarked money. I don't see anything so wrong with earmarked money. And it was never the intent of LB 190 to increase a burden on the people of Nebraska via the general fund. This was only a bill to go into effect to become implemented in the event the federal government took off the eight cents a pack cigarette tax. My good friend, Senator John DeCamp, said everybody is getting excited and eager. I don't see too many excited or eager, John. Okay, thank you. I think if we keep our calm and our cool, let's rationalize this thing a little bit, realize that our sister state, Kansas, already has a bill in place ready to take advantage of this in case the federal government does eliminate the tax on cigarettes. I just implore you to stop, think, listen and let's not go off half-cocked and kill this bill. Let's keep it going so we can have it in place in case this eventuality takes place. How many of you are good business men? I hope all of you think you are. What is one attribute of a good business man? He thinks in cases of eventualities. What would I do in case this takes place? What would I do in case that takes place? We, as a body, are faced with that right now. In the event that the federal government eliminates the eight cent tax, let's let Nebraska be smart enough to have a vehicle in place to take advantage of that. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Labeledz.