

years ago. Senator Johnson introduced a bill establishing a cancer registry in the State of Nebraska. At that time, though we passed the bill, the money to fund the program was not appropriated. This was because there was a private initiative that had been started by the medical association and by the hospitals across the state to try to provide for cancer registry that was private in nature. We have given now several years of time to that effort and have found that it has been somewhat successful, but the need is there for the state to actually fund the cancer registry and cooperate with that private initiative and make sure that the task at hand is done completely and comprehensively. And so really, all that was lacking, the cancer registry effort, was the money. The cancer registry money that we are proposing under LB 925 would come from the cigarette tax, now one cent of which is designated for cancer research projects. Cancer researchers in the state came back to us and said, we could do a much better job of researching cancer and finding solutions to the problems if we had a more comprehensive cancer registry in the state. And so even the researchers who are getting this money said we would like to give up a part of that money to go to the cancer registry and to fund that cancer registry. It would help us do a better job in research and so they were willing to give up a part of that \$1.1 million to fund the cancer registry. The committee amendment, which I'd ask your adoption for, makes it clear that no more than 10 percent of that one cent cigarette tax would ever be designated to be used for the registry. At the present time it's estimated that the cost of the registry will be between 50,000 and \$80,000. It's likely that that will be all that is necessary. A 10 percent figure of the cigarette tax is 1.1 million total, 10 percent of which would be 110,000, so that's more than what they are estimating they will need so there should never be any problem. But just the same, we want to make it clear to everybody that we want the registry to be a very small fraction of the cost of that cigarette tax money that goes into cancer research. So this is a safety valve in other words to make sure we never spend too much of that money on the registry. I would ask adoption of the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments have been offered for adoption. Senator Hoagland, do you wish to speak on the committee amendments? Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak on the committee amendments? I guess those lights are on