

wholesalers and, (b) a reduction from 5 percent to 3 percent, a portion of that simply was in keeping with the increase in the tax. The increase in the tax wouldn't result in any additional work for the wholesalers because they still have to put the stamps on the package. So the increase in the tax ought to have some proportionate reduction in the discount. Now, the probable proportionate reduction would take it down to about 3.8 percent. Going down to 3 percent simply puts us more in keeping with the kind of discount allowances that our sister states have. Again, this is a revenue raising measure. The Revenue Committee did not believe it to be disproportionate to what our other states are doing. We felt that this, also a part of the Governor's package, was a justifiable part. We saw no reason not to advance this bill and again, I would see no real reason not to advance it this morning.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, I'm going to vote against the bill and let me start out by saying I'm not protecting myself as a smoker. I have many faults, many vices, smoking is not one of them. I never have smoked. In fact, I have this theory that it is people like me that the rule of smoking, the laws of smoking, seem to hurt the worst, the laws of smoking be, of course, if there are five people in a room, four of them are nonsmokers, one of them is a smoker, no matter what, the smoke will go to the nonsmoker. You can be standing in a crowd and the wind can be blowing 50 miles an hour in the opposite direction and instead of going with the wind, the smoke will go against the wind at 60 miles an hour, directly into my nostrils. I hate smoking, I really do. I think it's an obnoxious habit. It is, however, a form of recreation, of pleasure, of whatever, of a vast amount of the population and for some reason we seem to pick one man's vice and tax them almost inordinately and that seems to be the case with Nebraska when it comes to cigarettes. Now, Senator Johnson pointed out, he says, well, we're not the highest, or words to that effect. We now have, what, 17 states that, believe it or not, actually impose a higher tax on cigarettes than we do. If we would add the money on here, we'd get it so we'd be right there fighting for that number one place. We'd sure be in the top ten. There seems to be a real obsession with Nebraska to be number one and I think we let that carry over to such things as gasoline taxes, cigarette taxes, what,