

November 4, 1985

LB 3
LR 9

think if you are going to proceed with this, it is going to take a lot of time, otherwise you might lay it over for another day.

SPEAKER NICHOL: We are going to leave this at this...you were through, Senator DeCamp? We are going to leave this resolution at this time and come back at a later time, either later today or a later date. We'll move on to talking about cigarettes. Mr. Clerk, where were we on number 3?

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 3 was introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Read title.) The bill was read on October 17, Mr. President. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File with committee amendments. On October, I believe, 18 the committee amendments were considered. They were adopted on that date, Mr. President. I do have amendments pending.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, are you going to handle the committee amendments?

CLERK: They've been adopted.

SPEAKER NICHOL: They've been adopted. Are you going to handle the bill? Okay, thank you. Perhaps you would like to explain the bill now so that the rest of us can catch up. All right, thank you.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, sir, Mr. Speaker. While you were out of this country, Mr. Speaker, we did take this bill up initially and I made a small presentation, I guess, on behalf of LB 3. I will quickly explain it again. This bill would increase Nebraska cigarette tax from its current level of 18 cents per package of cigarettes to 23 cents per package of cigarettes. That is the first thing it would do. That increase would generate, for the State of Nebraska this fiscal year, about \$4 million, and for a full fiscal year about \$7 million, about \$7.5 million. The arguments on behalf of the increase in the cigarette tax, I think, are the following: number one, our sister states of Iowa, South Dakota and Kansas have all increased their cigarette taxes to an amount which is in excess of the 23 cents per pack that this bill would call for. On the other hand, our sister states of Wyoming and Colorado and Missouri have