

years. This is a pure revenue raising measure by the sponsors' own admission apparently. Then why should this vice be singled out more than any other one and taxed more heavily than all the others? Why does Nebraska have to resort only, so frequently when we have a problem, to targeting one individual group who apparently can't defend themselves, or lack the numbers, or for whatever reason can be...a stigma can be put on them and you can tax them? We are already right at the very top in cigarette taxation in the United States. At some point you keep pushing it up, you are going to eliminate any of your chances to use any of the revenue that could be put on in the future for some of those purposes such as cancer and other social policies. If you are using cigarettes now strictly as revenue raising measures, you are eliminating your chances in the future to use it for anything else. Finally, I get to the political reality. There is 25 percent of them out there that think it is high enough now probably. They are the people that have this vice. They are the people that smoke two packs or more per day. Yes, they stink up the room. Yes, the smoke always comes into my face. Yes, they smell up my car. They are also unfortunately my good friends. They say to me, they say, you know how far are you going to push it, you've got to always be number one in taxation, now you want to add another onto cigarettes. You promised you were going to get rid of the cigarette tax after you did your Devaney center. You promised this, you promised that. You never did one of them. You are just going to keep adding onto cigarettes. I guess I think they are right. The moment we get a problem, we nail the cigarette smoker. I think that 25 percent that are watching this and saying, why me, Lord...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR DECAMP: ...are going to say, why keep him, Lord? It could be devastating.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, please, then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Marsh, I am going to oppose this increase. I think that this would be disastrous. I think the five cents a package is too much. According to the figures that I received, one cent a package brings in approximately \$1.6 million to \$1.7 million a year. I think the cigarette smokers are paying more than their fair share of our taxes