

Contrary to what some of us may believe that this state can have no impact upon federal policy, I believe we can, and to the extent that we do have that impact, we can contribute to a major improvement in the economy of this state. We have a responsibility because many of those people who have been elected to that responsibility at the federal level have not fulfilled it or else are unable to do so. Therefore I suggest that we not use the patchwork approach as we have many times in the past in an attempt to solve our problems, but rather that we take the responsibility for a major economic turn around in this state that will be of lasting value and we'll be able to provide the services that we need to all of the people of the state at a moderate rate of taxation. I have to oppose the Marsh amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please, then Senator Rupp.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to oppose the amendment and the entire issue if for no other reason than the philosophy of some of the people on this floor. I think V.J. stands for Vard Johnson. So Senator Johnson sent a clipping around and it says, smoking is suicide, warned Yul Brynner. What has that got to do with this tax increase? It is not going to research. It is just taxing people who smoke. Now they say it is a sin to smoke, so let's call it a sin. What did we do with the other sin, horse racing? We lowered their taxes, didn't we? So, we have two sins. One seems to be worse than the other one. And they say cigarettes can cause your death. Well, if you are addicted to gambling, this can cause your death because you lose all your money, you become despondent, you commit suicide. If you want to play these kind of games, we will play them. Now I've received hundreds of postcards from people in my district opposed to this. Now, true, you could say that they were organized. But you want to remember two things, the first, these citizens spent their own money to return those cards, so they are serious about it. Second, they are going to know individually each and every one of you how you voted on this issue. Yes, they are. They are going to be notified. So here you have a group of citizens, so far it is about 200 in my district, that have shown their opposition. I haven't received any phone calls or any cards or letters supporting the issue. So what does this tell you? This tells you that the majority of the people on this issue don't care, thereby