

Yes, Senator DeCamp, it will help financially, but you are aware that is not my primary purpose. Most of the people on this legislative floor are aware that my concern is the health care issue. Even the tobacco companies are aware of my particular stand on this issue. We need the dollars. We also need to be encouraging the citizens of this state to do less smoking for their health's sake. Let's help with this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, then Senator Lundy.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, unabashedly this morning I acknowledged that what I am doing can be characterized as preaching, moral meddling it could be called if what I am talking about dealt only with what the individual wanted to do in the privacy of his or her own closet, home or automobile. I am talking now about something that does impact on the general welfare and the general health. We know that the major opposition to an increase in the tax on cigarettes is not based on a concern for the public but because the tobacco industry has put together a high priced lobbying effort. That is what catches senators' attention. We all know it. They know it and that is why they spend so much money and so many lobbyists are hired to do this. The public is never given anything but short shrift by the Legislature when the issue boils down to one of the public versus the lobbyists. The lobbyists have a better record than the Christians against the lions because at least an occasional Christian, who they thought was a Christian, was a hypocrite and would give a lion indigestion and it would make him a little careful the next time he was going to swallow somebody who was called a Christian. Although somebody told me that every time the lion ate a true Christian he would throw up and when somebody asked for the explanation it was that you can't keep a good man or woman down. But however you want to take it, there were ways that the Christians had of trying to get even with the lions. When it comes to the lobbyists and the public, the public has no prayer. When have you ever seen the public put together a room on top of the First National Bank Building or something like the University Club or a lobby room where the senators can be brought there and the liquor comes in the room in demijohns and comes out of the room in demagogos? That is the way it goes and we all know it. We are some of the most practical, cynical people on the face of the earth, yet when somebody such as myself will