

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me. Senator DeCamp's light came on. Would you like to let him talk before you close? All right.

SENATOR DECAMP: We have got to get something worked out here. You can't apparently register your desire to speak until the board is cleared and the board doesn't get cleared on these amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: That is right. That is what happens, Senator DeCamp, and that is the only reason I called on you.

SENATOR DECAMP: It works very effectively but...

SPEAKER NICHOL: We try to watch that.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like to deal with the bill itself, the cigarette tax increase, and the arguments that have been raised in favor of it. And I think we have had three essential lines of argument. Argument number one, Senator Marsh, basically, gave social arguments relative to cancer, the evils of smoking, this kind of thing. Senator Chambers essentially gave arguments about lobbyists and how we were possibly voting and being whipsawed by them. What nobody dealt with that I could see were the merits of a cigarette tax increase in and of itself. Let us talk about the social arguments for a minute. If you read this bill, if you study this bill, if you believe in this bill, there is absolutely nothing in there that does anything about cancer, that directs any money towards any cancer research. There is nothing in the bill that deals with some of the other things raised by Senator Chambers and Senator Marsh and that is smokers infringing upon you or me. That is separate legislation. That kind of legislation is whether you should or shouldn't have smoking in public places, whether you should or shouldn't smoke in airplanes. That is a separate issue. This doesn't solve that. Senator Marsh acknowledged her main goal was to impose upon smoking to make it costly, to in a sense stop it, but the idea of a tax increase is the exact opposite. For this tax increase to generate the money, you have to do one thing. You have to get as much money as possible without affecting smoking patterns. The whole idea is you keep people smoking as much as possible so that you can extract as much money as possible, in other words, pluck every feather off the chicken without actually killing the chicken. You don't want to stop smoking,