

because if you stop smoking, you cut down your tax revenue. If you want to stop smoking, you have other programs but not simply tax increases. Okay, what about the lobbyists? Well, we are talking about Walt Radcliffe and lean, mean, sleek, and racy Jim, who everybody knows. Those are the lobbyists. Now is anybody going to tell me they are voting against the bill because of those two individuals? Absolutely not. Do you know why you are voting against it, if you are voting against it? You are voting against it because of who they represent just like you vote against a farm bill, not because of the lobbyists, but because of whom they represent; abortion bills, not the particular lobbyist, but who is behind them. Somehow whenever somebody on this floor or a lot of people get in a weak position, then they have this rant and rave against the lobbyists. The lobbyist is somehow leading you like sheep. The lobbyist is running the place. What is a lobbyist? He is nothing more than a representative of some special interest group. Now whether that special interest group be the housing people, be the welfare ADC mothers, whether it be the banking industry, it is the industry or the individuals behind it that is the power one way or another. The lobbyist is a mere spokesman. And in this case there is a powerful lobby, a powerful interest group, a very powerful one, about 40 percent of the people in this room are a part of it. They are smokers. Like I say, I don't smoke. I think it stinks. But I also say you have got to treat them when you are treating taxation on these different things with some kind of a fair, equal-handed measure, and you are not doing it. You are putting them up to some of the top taxes in the United States and you are not addressing the real things you have talked about. Disease, the evils of smoking, you are not addressing any of those. I will tell you this, if you use up the space there for a potential tax increase in the future, then that money is not available for the special things such as cancer treatment, such as the other things. You have used up the space you have for strictly pure revenue purposes. So before you automatically vote in favor of the bill to significantly and massively increase cigarette taxes, what is it, 5 cents on 18, that is a 30 percent increase. Try a 30 percent increase in sales tax. Try it in income tax. Try it in anything. I think you would get lynched, but because you have targeted one area, you think you can increase their particular taxes that are already among the highest in the United States, you think you can target their particular area for a 30 or more