

You want to give carte blanche to these dispensers of death, and in this case that is not an overstatement. And when people wind up with emphysema, or heart disease, or a stroke, or cancer, the first thing they do, they want to reject it. They are angry, they deny it. Then as the disease works its way toward the ultimate conclusion, there is a type of acceptance, not just for those who get ailments from tobacco and tobacco products, but other terminal illnesses. They have places where people can go and receive moral and spiritual support during their last moments, or hours, or days because death is considered so fearsome and awesome in this society. So in view of how death is viewed, and we know young people consider themselves to be immortal, why will we, who are older, presumably wiser, and concerned about our young people, not do the kinds of things that will protect them. To whom do we owe the greatest obligation, the tobacco industry and those hawk the vending machines, or to our young people? Why, when we know how young people can be enticed, are we going to pretend that they won't be? Why will we be so unreasonable in dealing with our young people? Senator Byars, if you and I were going to get together to create a new adding machine, we would not construct this machine and then destroy it because it doesn't behave like a typewriter. We built an adding machine. Since we know and understand the characteristics of young people, we are wrong, we are culpable. If, when we're enacting legislation of this kind, we ignore those realities that we all know to be there. If this amendment is not adopted, I think it becomes clear that the welfare of our young people...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is not uppermost in our minds when we consider this type of legislation. I don't know what poses a greater threat to our young people. There are some in this Chamber who may have, at some time or other, sampled drugs that are considered illicit. Once tobacco gets a hold of people, the nicotine, it is one of the most, I would say probably, the most addictive drug in this society. People who are very intelligent, who have responsible positions cannot control the nicotine habit. There are products, there are seminars, there are all types of aids and assists to try to rescue people from this terrible substance. I hope you will adopt this amendment because all it does is tell these people who have the vending machines, be careful and cautious, and keep these machines from providing that substance to our young people.