

cancer deaths are directly attributable to cigarettes and when 88 percent of the chronic lung disease is directly attributable, it seems that this bill at least addresses those issues and provides some funding from the cause to potential solutions. I think the money is also leveraged so that we are able to bring in some additional funds that will help what I think is, both Creighton and the Med Center, two very fine institutions, and two very fine cancer research centers. I think that, when we are having problems with Medicaid and Medicare, and as I understand it, as far back in '85 already, there were \$4.2 billion paid by the government for smoking related health care expenditures in Medicaid and Medicare payments, and that is according to the AMA. If we are looking at ways to cut costs for Medicaid, if we are looking at things to help alleviate suffering, then perhaps this small contribution, an additional sacrifice by those who choose to smoke may not really be that bad and may contribute to them in the long run. And with that, and considering that at the beginning of this session I believe we had over 40 cents per pack of tax, increased taxes on cigarettes proposed, the small amount that we are now dealing with I think says that we, as a body, have looked at the amounts we are wanting to spend and kept it down very low. And with that, I think everyone.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Pirsch, you are next.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Senator Hall. At least this proposal is...makes more sense because the money will be used for the cancer research and is earmarked for that, which will bring the commitment from cigarette tax to 3 cents. That 3 cents will raise about \$4 million, as I see it. One of the questions I have with this bill, I would like to ask Senator Lindsay, if he would yield if he was around.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Lindsay, would you respond, please?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Lindsay, this was in your original bill and the committee did include it in the committee amendments, and that was to change the 20 percent of that current 1 cent that we now do to a flat 200,000 for a cancer registry. The cancer registry, I think, was put in about two years ago, if my memory serves me right. What now is the cancer registry doing