

May 2, 1975

PRESIDENT: Alright. Senator Koch, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, is this a significant change to the intent of the bill in its original form? It's not? Does it give the bill any better chance of passing with that amendment, other than the way it was? Is this the bill I'm thinking of, the price fixing bill for the liquor industry? It's what? Well the point is, I'm going to oppose it because I basically oppose the bill. I think that this is merely an effort to give the bill some rationale to possibly support it. Most of us would agree that possibly the license should be transferred to the spouse if and when an unfortunate incident occurred. I think that the members of this body should be aware of the fact that we're getting right back into the business again of providing . . . what I think is a price fixing situation. All of us, I think, are opposed to this type of activity. By and large, let the free enterprise system regulate its prices. I'd like to be in the business where somebody comes in and guarantees me a 15 percent profit regardless of what my merchandizing ability was or anything else. What we have to do to the liquor business is we have to cut down on the number of licenses that are granted. Use some restraint if there are those who can't survive the business. Therefore, we should commend all the businesses that are in trouble. We should provide them with an absolute markup, they'd all be in business. I just can't understand why this piece of legislation is before this body and it's gotten this far. I would hope that the members of this body would take a good look at this piece of legislation. Isn't that right Senator DeCamp? I have one additional question, then I'll close. Senator Goodrich, could you advise me as to where this new amendment came from?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, the . . .

SENATOR KOCH: . . . and what the problem really is?

SENATOR GOODRICH: OK. The . . . Joe Skidlarick of Omaha asked me if we could find a vehicle to provide for this so that in the event than an operator passed away that his widow would not have to go through a bunch of legal arrangements in order to just keep the business open. That's all this amendment does is provide a right of survivorship clause like we have in house titles, car titles, that sort of thing. I'm not arguing the merits or demerits of the bill itself. All I did was pick this particular bill because it happened to be germane to the subject matter. That's all I'm asking for is just attach this amendment to a liquor bill to get that particular feature available to the owners and operators of liquor establishments.

SENATOR KOCH: Well I sympathize with the amendment. Basically, the bill in its totality is absolutely wrong.