

motion? Do you wish to close, Senator? Oh, Senator Carsten, excuse me, yes.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I rise to I think oppose the amendment although I don't think the amendment is harmful as far as the bill is concerned. But the bill was not brought by the liquor industry or the wine industry as such at all. It was brought by an individual who happens to live in my district who produces an acre or two of grapes down in the hills along the Missouri River whose ground cannot be farmed successfully and it was his idea that after traveling through Missouri and some other states that have similar situations that this could be an addition to the agricultural economy of the State of Nebraska and believed that it will work and that we should provide for it and there was no provision in our statutes for it. There certainly is no intent for this individual or anyone else that I know of to go in conjunction with other people to produce that much wine in a year's time. It was purely from an individual standpoint. I don't think it would be violated. I don't think the amendment would hurt but I don't think it is necessary, as Senator Scofield has already said too. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I would just like to relate some of the testimony that was given at the public hearing. The Miscellaneous Subjects Committee held a hearing on this and we have had this bill before us for several years, several different times anyway, but this bill definitely puts a limit of 50,000 gallons of wine produced per year, and if they go over that, why then they would have to get a regular manufacturer's license which, of course, is more expensive and the taxes on this wine would go up. As we have it in this bill now, it is 5 cents a gallon. The committee did try to amend that or offered an amendment to have it 25 cents per gallon tax but that didn't carry. And so I just wanted to relay this information to the body. I don't really think that perhaps a private label is necessary because I think we have got parts of this bill that will protect us so that they will only be able to produce 50,000 gallons per year. Like Senator Scofield said, after they get going and produce more, why then certainly the tax will go up.