

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, never let it be said that I didn't try to accommodate every legitimate objection raised. Senator Hoagland said he was trying to exempt the Ma and Pas and the small guy and so on and so forth and he tried to do it with employees. That would have destroyed the bill. He raised a question. Senator Wesely came to me and said, look, I want to increase that amount. I do want to exempt some of these. I am willing to go 350 percent higher with this amendment. Now that may not be what people supporting the bill somewhere want, but I think it is reasonable and I think it is a reasonable compromise. In other words, the floor, before you ever were involved in this litter tax, would be \$350,000, and I urge you to support the amendment and then, of course, once you have done that to support the bill onto Final Reading.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, as I indicated earlier, there are a lot of good reasons for exempting the small guy, and I am glad that we were able to reach this agreement. Now, if you take a look at the fiscal note, it seems to indicate...the fiscal note to this bill seems to indicate that for every \$100,000 in sales, it requires about 1.43 employees. Now that is a ballpark guess and it is an estimate. But if you extrapolate that, why it means that this particular amendment is exempting Ma and Pa grocery stores, little drug stores, little drive-ins, that have anywhere from five to six full-time employees per year. So I think what we are going to do is to a certain extent anyway, not to the extent I would like, but to a certain extent we are going to be able to get the people out of this bill that really never wanted it, that really, in my opinion, are not creating a litter problem around this state, and we are going to relieve them of the permit and the taxation requirements, and I think that, at least, improves the bill, and we should adopt this.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would just like to express my appreciation to Senator DeCamp and Senator Hoagland for agreeing to this compromise. I think it strikes a balance between the concerns of Senator Hoagland for the small retailer and at the same time meets the needs that Senator DeCamp has identified in providing revenues, and I think that it is certainly a reasonable compromise. I urge your support.