

of Iowa and buy beer in any of them, practically every filling station, but there is one difference. We think, well, we have got to have it that way because Iowa has got it or we have got to have it that way because it is nice to be able to buy these sort of things in the supermarkets but the difference is that in Iowa the liquor stores, as we know them over here, are owned by the state. The City of Ames, Iowa has one liquor store in the whole city. Now I will admit Ames is not the hugest city in the world but it is a much larger town than many towns that I know of in the State of Nebraska that have as high as three and four liquor stores in them. Maybe that is the reason they have got a little different set up over there but I, for one, don't really feel that it is necessary to get into a situation where the supermarkets of this state, and believe me, if the 7-Eleven's and some of the others that are mentioned in the bill book, Shaver's Food Markets, Baker's Supermarkets and so forth, if they start getting these licenses, then all the other supermarkets in the State of Nebraska are going to have to get them also in order to so-call compete. We talk about competition all the time. That is great. I don't know as it drives the price down a whole lot but it does give a few people some more income. I think another area that we need to think about is if we really are serious about providing more outlets or not, the fact of the matter is without getting on a soapbox that gets to alcoholism, I think all we need to do is read the newspapers and we know that traffic accidents are increasing at a dramatic rate. The highway fatality toll is higher each year than it was the year before and I don't think you need to be any great wizard to figure out why. The majority of those accidents are normally, over fifty percent of them, have got some sort of alcohol relation to them. Why we need more outlets to fill a so-called gap is beyond me. So since I can't see that gap, see no reason for allowing individuals to sell beer and wine off-sale, I think we have got plenty of licenses available right now. If they want to run a legitimate liquor store and handle the whole thing, then fine, we have got the licenses to do that. I would urge this body's help to indefinitely postpone LB 258.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Dworak. Pardon me, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I took the opportunity to listen to Senator Vickers and his explanation as to why he opposes LB 258 and I guess you could just sum it up in a sentence rather than take as much time as he did and say he doesn't like alcohol or he doesn't want to make it...I guess that is fine. I don't drink very much myself but I think he is missing the big point of LB 258 and the reason that some of us do support it and it is precisely for