

March 30, 1981

LB 258

Wine Institute. It is, in my opinion at least, an overt effort to do nothing more than simply sell more wine. As has already been alluded to, I see no reason why quick stops, supermarkets and so forth should be competing against our package stores, our ma and pa operations. I have heard no great hue and cry from the hinterland for us to adopt this bill, adopt a new Class K license. Despite what has been already said by some on this floor, my correspondence against LB 258 has not been directed entirely by those in the business. Granted, a lot of those letters that I received have been from licensees but not all of them. There is a concern out there. I am concerned about it. I don't believe the bill is necessary and I wholeheartedly support the motion to indefinitely postpone. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there was a statement made that can you buy wine with food stamps and the answer was "no". The answer is "yes". I have been doing my shopping down here now for going on two and a half years and I watched people how they spend their food stamp. Many, many cases, many, many times they overpay in food stamp and do you know how they get the money back, in cash. And do you know what they can do, then they walk right out of the checkline, if we pass this bill, over pick out their bottle of wine or what have you, come back and pay the cash and go on their merry way. So I say, "Yes, you can purchase wine and liquors with food stamps if it is made available in the proper places and you make it a lot easier." Sure, they could carry the cash, go down to the liquor store, but you are making it a lot easier. The guy looks at his change and he says, "Boy! I have got enough change here to get me a bottle of wine", and he is going to go over and get it where he may not make the trip the block and a half, the two blocks, or three blocks down to the local liquor store to buy the wine. Also your liquor store merchants are not afraid of the competition. They are saying why allow someone else in the business to use their livelihood as a loss leader which your grocery stores and your quick stop people would do. They will cut the price to get people in to buy their groceries by cutting the livelihood of someone else. So I ask you to vote yes on Senator Vickers' indefinitely postpone which means "kill it". Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise just briefly to oppose the kill bill. Ordinarily