

March 30, 1981

LB 258

I don't get involved in liquor bills. I don't pretend to be an authority on liquor or wine but Senator Cullan and I have a little bill coming along in a little while that does just the opposite, try to pick up a little bit of money to cure alcoholism and these sort of things, but as far as wine is concerned with the low content, I don't see any problem letting ladies or whoever does the family shopping, men, pick it up while at the grocery store. I think competition will take care of itself. As far as welfare people spending money how they want to, it was attempted many years ago to tell them how to spend their money. It was declared that they were people, they had a right to spend their money how they wanted to and they will still spend it the way they want to, I don't care what you pass in this Legislature. So I support the bill and oppose the kill motion.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I would like to kind of clear up some misunderstandings that I think have been created here. You know I think that we were for awhile on the issue. Senator Higgins certainly talked to the issue. Senator Cullan talked to the issue. I think that is, in fact, the issue, how regulated should this industry be, to what extent do we want to open up this kind of activity. You know, I would like to remind people who are not too familiar with our present licensing structure that basically this is...the same thing is done right now for beer only. Senator Kahle, for beer only they do the same thing in terms of selling. This only upgrades beer and wine. This makes it beer and wine. You go into the whole issue of the Falstaff Brewery was over how you buy beer. You know you go out and you buy beer, you run it across the counter. A person has got to be twenty-one years old or twenty years old now to ring it up. Basically that already exists in our present law, that kind of retailing already exists for beer. Now we are trying to do it for wine. I would like to just address very briefly Senator Haberman's point. Rex, did you hear your name? Senator Haberman, you are not only incorrect but you are absolutely wrong. That is soft, Rex, that is softer than what I would normally want to do it and I am trying to be a good guy this year so I am just going to say not only are you incorrect, Senator Haberman, about how you exchange if you overpay in food stamps, you get back script, Senator Haberman, script. No, Senator Haberman, you do not get back cash. No, you do not. Well, I will tell you something. I am surprised at that and that is a direct violation of the law. You know frankly the argument has always been and there has been a lot of people who argue that, in fact, there is a lot of problems created with food stamps because of food stamp