March 30, 1981

LB 258

people bringing back items and asking for cash because no one knows after they have taken it out when they come back in whether or not that they purchased it with cash or food stamps but you don't get back cash from the individuals. If it is it is just pennies, I will tell you that. It is only to make the very little change. Well, I think this issue can be resolved very easily and I think that is one, key one, but you know the other part of this issue, and I think we really have to analyze it, is simply this. The interim study that the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee did, the interim study basically said there needs to be some tightening up of our liquor laws. There needs to be some regulation over the industries, Senator Higgins. Senator Higgins. I get no respect, that's the...there needs to be some regulation of the industry and the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee ...

SENATOR CLARK: (Gave1).

SENATOR NEWELL: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: I don't know whether they want to listen to you or not but we will try to hold them down.

SENATOR NEWELL: As long as they wouldn't compete so much, that is the part that bothers me. The fact is is we do have too many retail establishments. We do have cutthroat competition. We, in fact, do have far too many retail establishments and there is some kind of cutthroat competition out there and that is the problem. But you know we passed a bill earlier this year to deal with that in a more legitimate way and that is the public need and convenience bill that was passed earlier this session. Frankly, that, that is the way you legitimately look at whether or not there is competition throughout the area, throughout the city. You look at that in the issuance of every new license. That is the way you hold competition down. You don't hold competition down by setting a price structure. You don't limit the number of retailers or the type of retailers. You do it by limiting the total number of retailers. Frankly, we have done that. We have moved in that direction this year. This proposal will open it up so that in fact we can have competition in this industry.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, I call for the question.

SENATOR CLARK: Well, that really won't be necessary beings you were the last speaker. Senator Vickers, do you wish to close?

254: