

January 28, 1982

LB 431

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just had a quick question for Senator DeCamp. Is there any reason why we just couldn't strike the words "approved by the Commission". Why does the Commission want to decide whether one credit card is any better than another?

SENATOR DeCAMP: I don't care.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Newell, why shouldn't we do that?

SENATOR NEWELL: First of all, Senator Beutler, the Commission would feel comfortable, the industry would feel comfortable with them regulating the credit cards, because in fact the idea here is to prevent purchases that only allow for convenience of the consumer and not to allow a lot of other purchases. So I think that not only is that very clearly in the statutes to authorize those kinds of credit cards to make sure it is consumer oriented and not a way of paying for other kinds of liquor transactions.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Not paying for other kinds of liquor transactions.

SENATOR NEWELL: So that the Commission can control that there is not a lot of other liquor transactions other than just the normal consumer oriented transaction along with food.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Could you give me an example of how a credit card could be misused in that regard?

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, as you well know that in fact there is a law that prohibits buying alcoholic beverages on credit. Okay, and so the idea here is to say...so that the Commission can regulate it in conjunction with a consumer purchase at the time on a normally approved credit card but not to also allow all kinds of other credit sort of purchases of alcohol, in other words independent of food purchases, et cetera, et cetera.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Newell, I guess I am missing the point. Isn't the amendment limited to retail purchases of alcoholic liquor?

SENATOR NEWELL: That is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So why does it matter what kind of credit card is used in the retail purchase of alcoholic liquor? I guess what I...I can see no reason I guess for giving the Commission the power to fool around with what kind of a credit card is good or bad. A credit card is a credit card.