

January 28, 1982

LB 431

SENATOR BEUTLER: All right. I think that probably is the big deal of this bill to me. We have taken an what I think is a rather innocuous type of bill and add an amendment on that is pretty important, that people can now charge liquor, right?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Only on credit cards.

SENATOR COPE: Well, a credit card is a charge.

SENATOR DeCAMP: That is why we are offering the proposal because a credit card has been called a charge even though you are committed to paying it immediately upon receipt from the credit card company, and even though the restaurant or the liquor dealer immediately is going to get his money, it is technically a charge at the time you hand him the credit card. Like when you pay for gas right now, if you go and give the man the \$20 you are paying cash. If you give him a credit card, even though it is the same as cash to him, it is technically and legally a charge.

SENATOR COPE: That is right and that is (interruption).

SENATOR DeCAMP: And so we are trying to, as I tried to explain and hope it is clear, we are allowing a credit card, Visa, Mastercharge, to be used instead of cash.

SENATOR COPE: Yes, I realize that, so I oppose the bill or the amendment.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, I wonder if Senator DeCamp would respond to a question please.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Sure.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator DeCamp, I think you explained to Senator Cope and for a little more of an explanation to me that the use of a credit card as far as the retailer is concerned is credit and not cash, is that correct, even though as far as the person buying the product is concerned, the credit that they really owe is to the holder of the credit card.

SENATOR DeCAMP: That is right.

SENATOR VICKERS: And it is construed as far as the retailer is concerned as not being cash but actually being credit,