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SENATOR COPE: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to introduce the guests of Senator Chronister, Mrs. Irene Hetmonek from Schuylers and Chronister's daughter, Chris Wisniewski. I knew they would give me names like this after a while. And she is also from Schuylers. Where are you, please? Will you stand up and be recognized? Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there is something I want to get into the record about the pre-trial diversion programs, not just as they relate to DWI. Recently there was an article in the Lincoln newspaper where the Lancaster County Attorney acknowledged that these programs may appear to be white middle class programs because with the conditions set down for getting into the program it favors those kind of people. If you are blue collar or no collar, you don't have the basis generally needed to be allowed into that program so it does favor people of a certain class, those who have certain names or connections. So I think these programs can be of value. Currently, I think they are operated in a discriminatory fashion, not race am I talking about now although that could enter into it too, but primarily because of class standing. So what I want into the record so that I can talk to these people who administer these programs is the idea that some equity has to be put into the way these programs operate so that they don't favor only those who have money or friends. Despite the flaws in the programs as they exist now though, I am in favor of them and I would hate for the Legislature in one fell swoop without giving any study to how these programs operate or what they accomplish wiping them off the board. It is easy and really a nonargument to say that this puts a loophole in the bill. Well, anything could be described as a loophole, but that is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about trying to come to grips with one of the most complex problems facing this society. You are dealing with a substance that society accepts, remember. There is nothing wrong with alcohol. Alcohol is not considered evil. It is not a sin. It is not a crime to consume alcohol. That is what you have to remember. The government profits from it. Societies profit from it. People who sell liquor will give to charities, so it is as holy as anything you find in the Bible. So how are you going to treat people so harshly and without mercy who have fallen prey to something that society has said is all right. I don't understand it. I would much rather see us look at all aspects of the problem dealing with the consumption of

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