

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the motion to indefinitely postpone? Senator Chambers, do you wish to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Very briefly, Mr. Chairman. Remember this bill does not limit itself to the purchase or the sale of these items, but merely the altering and I'm putting it in the simplest form that the bill allows. If anybody alters a piece of paper, for anybody under twenty, because that person may have the purpose of using it to obtain liquor the offense is committed. That is all. It doesn't have to be at the fair, it doesn't have to be an organization, no liquor need be purchased, no attempt be made, need be made to purchase the liquor and the person need not even deliver the altered piece of paper to anybody. I think that is far too broad. Then when you come down to the definition of the form of identification because that is what we have labeled this document, it says, the document that may be used to establish the age. When you say "may be used" it means that you have a set of circumstances where an attempt is going to be made to use this to persuade somebody that your age is whatever this paper says. Now, if it is so unreasonable to any person that this piece of paper being brought by this person is what it purports to be then I think it is something that should be laughed off. You shouldn't allow a crime to be committed under these circumstances. I can remember an incident that occurred where a politician or somebody for promotional purposes had produced a replica of some denomination of US currency. He had put his name on it, he had put his face on it, he had said this is not money, this is phony and things like that. The Treasury Department got one of these bills and tried to prosecute the person. The judge immediately threw the thing out saying anybody looking at this would know that it is not an attempt to duplicate the currency of the United States. It is a piece of paper, it declares clearly on its face what it is. Anybody looking at it can see what it is not. So, this bill does not even require a standard of reasonableness. It does not even say altering a piece of paper so that a reasonable person observing this could be lead to believe that it is what it purports to be. It could mean that a person would take a birth certificate and take some of that white out that we have in the Legislature and white out the date of birth and write in with pencil, an obvious alteration. The mere doing of that could be the basis of a prosecution under this act and I think that is unreasonable, the intent that Senator Stoney has is not what I am even quarreling with. I have to be concerned about the conduct we define as crimes and the punishments that we impose. This is one of those that does not set well with my conscience, with