

revenue needs of the state. I thought it was important to point out one revenue, one tax exemption that seemed to be highly questionable and I'm sure that there are more that we should be and should be looking at to try and deal with the revenue problems that we have. Are these exemptions fair? Are they adequate compensation for the purposes they are intended to be? In this case, I don't think that it is probably fair to allow for this...for such a great increase and I'm not sure that we aren't already adequately compensating them. As Senator Marsh talked about it we are really talking about, we are providing them with an increase in their wholesale discount from last year. They will be getting about a \$150,000 for doing the same work that they did last year so that is not being, I don't think, inconsequential. But what we are talking about if we don't adopt this amendment is a half a million dollars more they are going to be making over what they did last year and that doesn't seem fair to me.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR WESELY: When we are talking about trying to find dollars here and dollars there, we are raising fees and we are doing other things to try to come up with the money we need to balance our budget, how can we possibly at this time reject something as questionable as this wholesale discount that we provide for cigarette dealers. It seems to me in the research that I have done that the issue has to be raised and I would urge your support for the amendment, that we would still be fair to the wholesaler, they would still be making more money than they did last year and this year but they would not be making a half a million dollars more money that I think the tax payers ought to be receiving instead of having it syphoned off and staying with the wholesaler for doing the same job they did last year this year. I ask your support for the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Question before the House is the adoption of the Wesely amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Record the vote. A record vote has been requested.

CLERK: Senator Wesely requests a record vote, Mr. President. Read record vote as it appears on page 1620 of the Legislative Journal. 10 ayes, 31 nays, 6 present and not voting and 2 excused and not voting.