

allow for retailer to retailer sales of alcoholic beverages, liquor. They say they have a concern about not being able to, and I think Senator Tim Hall has explained that to you very well, there seems to be a little problem with being able to, especially in the western part of Nebraska, if you have some people come in and they want to have a special kind of whiskey or whatever, and this premise does not have it, they can go across the street and buy it from another premise. And what my...the amount that we are saying they cannot exceed in the original bill, 704, is \$500. My amendment would limit that amount of retailer to retailer sales not to exceed \$300. We had this bill in General Affairs Committee last year when Senator Morehead was the chairman of the committee. We worked this bill over in that committee and we came up with the consensus that there was, indeed, probably a little bit of a problem out there, but we don't want to create another layer where people are selling to people when we have the three-tier system already in place. We don't want to disturb that. We just want to be able to help those people out, if there, in fact, is a need. And we believe that \$300 is adequate to meet those kind of needs that they may have. I would ask your support for this amendment to the Hall amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Speaking on the amendment to the amendment, Senator Rod Johnson, would you care to speak to the amendment to the amendment?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I serve on the General Affairs Committee with Senator Smith, and as she has indicated, we have covered this issue in committee. In fact, we have covered it for at least the last three years, since I have been a member of that committee, and it has never quite made it to Final Reading. I believe the intent here today is to try and bring the issue to the forefront of this Legislature, and to attempt to somewhat subvert the process, using another bill to advance this concept. I have some difficulties with retail to retail. I will be the first to admit that. I think Senator Smith is on the right direction, that we limit this in a logical manner. I guess maybe I am not paying close enough attention to my district, but I just haven't had any bar owners in my district beating my door down to go to a retail to retail type system. I think the present system that we have had, the three-tier system as it is known within the liquor industry, has worked very well for rural Nebraska, and I think for Nebraska as a whole, and so while I will support Senator Smith's motion