

here, I am not going to vote for Senator Hall's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, would you care to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President and members, I guess I have a question but it may be for Senator Hall, as much as Senator Smith, although it is related. Whether it is 500 or 300, I guess I can't quite understand the need for this bill. If one retailer wants to go to another one, why don't they just send the customer across the street, and, I mean, so the dollars, maybe that is a more appropriate question for Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wehrbein, this, the bill deals with one liquor establishment, for example, a bar which must...is required because of the three-tier system that Senator Johnson pointed out must purchase their liquor from a wholesaler. They sell that liquor by the drink within their establishment. They cannot go to an IGA, an Osco, Frank's Liquor Store and buy a replacement bottle and take it back to their tavern and sell that by the drink to the customer. They must, are required by the three-tier system to purchase from the wholesaler. So what you have is you have a system where folks who are a distance from the Omaha area where the wholesalers tend to be, who basically right now ignore the law, and that is why Senator Johnson hasn't had his door beaten down is because people don't think twice about doing that. It is not a big issue. What we are doing here with this bill is basically putting into statute what is done. The Smith amendment that reduces my amendment to \$300, all that says is that it is an even smaller issue, and I will support that amendment if I get the opportunity to talk. But this is not for sale to an individual. It is for sale from one business to another, which that final business will sell to the consumer by the drink, and it allows them the ability to do that for convenience.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. Another question I will have, and maybe you can do that on your own time when you are discussing the main one will be, what the philosophy was behind the original intent of the three tier, briefly, and why it is important to change this at this time?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith.