

SENATOR SMITH: I will be very brief, Mr. Chairman. I would just answer a little bit the concern that Senator Wehrbein raised, and I would again stress what I have mentioned, what Senator Hall has mentioned, and what Senator Johnson has mentioned. There is in place a three-tier system in the liquor industry, and as far as I am concerned, it is working and this is just, supposedly this was...last year when they brought it to us in the committee, it was based on the concerns that we finally voted for which was sometimes in your small bars as you go west, it is real hard to get that brand that someone else wants, and you don't want to lose your customer, and so you have to sometimes go across, quickly go across the street and get this and bring it back and sell it there, and that was the reason we supported it last year. This year they came in, they didn't even talk about that issue out there. All they talked about was how easy it is to get this alcohol cheaper from other places, so why shouldn't they be able to do it, and bypass, basically, the three-tier system is what it would amount to. So what we did was look at this issue carefully, as we did last year. We decided, okay, we thought it was legitimate last year, that if, you know, we were trying to help those people out there because they did say they had this big concern, that we would allow...Senator Hall was going to amend it down to \$500. He originally asked for a thousand. Now someone just came to me on the floor and told me we were crazy, that that was not enough. I guess I think it is crazy that we even have the bill, originally, because the system provides for what goes on in the system, and people pay for their alcohol if they want it. So, basically, I would ask for the support of my amendment to the bill. I guess he calls it an amendment now since the bill is being attached to another bill, and as Senator Rod Johnson said, I don't know whether it is really needed anyway. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment to the amendment, Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Hartnett and Hall.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, members of the body, LB 704 is the bill we are trying to amend into 154, and I was looking at 704 one day, and it caught my attention, so I called the Liquor Commission and I visited with the Liquor Commission about the bill, as I noticed they were neutral on their testimony, and they explained it to me that if a restaurant ran out of tequila on a Saturday night, then they could run downtown and buy the tequila at a liquor store. And I said, well, it