

said \$750, now it has been reduced to \$500, I would like to reduce it to \$300, is there any restaurant in town that would use \$300 worth of tequila on one Saturday night? And the man at the Liquor Commission said, well, he really couldn't answer to that. I doubt very much if there is a restaurant that could use \$300 of tequila on a Saturday night. So this bill has been spoken to as helping western Nebraska, and I have had a senator and a man behind the glass windows come up to me and tell me that this is to help western Nebraska. Well, if it is to help western Nebraska, I have not had any input from any of the restaurant people, liquor stores, or anybody else telling me they need this bill. So I'm apt to maybe drag my feet a little bit but Senator Smith and Senator Goodrich, yes, Senator Goodrich just informed me that it would be \$300 per year. Well, that casts a new light on to it. The Liquor Commission didn't explain it that way. However, if it is adopted to \$300 a year, instead of having an auction and bringing it down to 200, Senator Hall, I will support the amendment with reluctance. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I guess I am also like Senator Rod Johnson. I have served on the...it was the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee and then was changed to General Affairs Committee which has dealt with liquor issues and gambling issues and so forth, and a year ago, I guess we were looking at the whole question of liquor and how it affected the state, and under the leadership of Senator Pat Morehead, we traveled to Senator Weihing's country and Senator Baack's country, and that is the first time that this question came up about is this, you know, this running out of liquor because all the distilled liquor, hard liquor, I call it, is in Omaha, so they simply wanted a means to be able to purchase some liquor rather than breaking the law because it is illegal for a bar to go and get a bottle from the...they are doing it but I think we should keep up to what the law's intent is, so last year we did have the bill, like Senator Johnson said and I think...or Smith said, and I think it was at \$300, and I think that is a reasonable figure. There is a paper trail. Of course, that was the testimony of the Liquor Commission. There is a paper trail. If I am a bar owner and I go buy, and Senator Schimek is a bar owner, and I buy a bottle from her, I have to record and so forth, so they are able to keep track of it, and it is just for a year, it is not in a month or something like that. So I think