

you would like. Wholesale houses have their own lines of product. They also have a lock on their own business. If I want to buy a bottle of Jack Daniels, you go to one wholesale house because they have the rights to distribute that. If I want to buy a bottle of Smirnoff Vodka, you have to drive over to the other wholesale house to buy that. And you clearly have to come to Omaha to buy any of it. What this amendment, what LB 704, the amendment to 154 does is it allows for a retailer in an emergency situation to be able to go to another retailer, a liquor store, the local grocery store or the store that has an off-sale license, purchase liquor, and be able to resell that over the counter. What it amounts to is a convenience. It allows for a convenience for those people so that they don't have to (A) violate the law by doing it anyway, and it goes on. It clearly does. There was testimony to that effect before the committee that there is much traffic in this right now.

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: I don't blame these retailers for doing that. They shouldn't have to in an emergency situation drive to Omaha to pick up a bottle of gin. The cap, the amendment that Senator Smith has offered reducing it to \$300 I will agree to. It is a cap that deals on an annual basis. It is a \$300 cap. It is not something that is going to be prevalent. People are not going to circumvent the wholesaler. It is going to be for an emergency situation. It is currently going on right now. The Liquor Control Commission testified to that effect. Some of the members of the industry, themselves, testified to that effect. What we do by adopting this amendment is we put in place a system that is traceable, that they can follow, that there is a paper trail, that allows for those individuals to be able, in emergency kinds of situations, to purchase a bottle within the law, and be able to resale that. It does not, in any way, circumvent the three-tier system because I can guarantee you that those retailers are not going to use this on an extensive basis. They go to those wholesale houses because they can do a little better on the price. They do get case prices. They do get a discount. There are specials that they hold on a regular basis. This is something that is out there that allows them a convenience so that (A) first of all, they are not outside the law, and, secondly, that they will have the ability to get by in a situation where otherwise they would have to, if they wanted