

of this should be able to transpire legally because of logistics and the complete inconvenience of running out of a particular brand and not being able to legally get by for a few days until a shipment from Omaha would arrive. And I would support Senator Smith's amendment and Senator Hall's amendment to 154.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President, and members, I am a little reluctant to speak on this issue because it has been such a sacred cow over the years, the issue of protection of the wholesaler. You know, we always talk on this floor about equity and individual rights and many other items, what we really have in the liquor business is the protection of the distributor, the wholesaler. A few years ago I had a more liberal bill which would have allowed retailer to retailer transactions, not just with liquor but with beer. I thought some of my good friends were going to have a stroke because of the threat to the whole beer industry. Didn't say anything about the free enterprise system where you might save a buck or might be able to buy a beer a little cheaper at Dubsy's bar in David City, if he could buy it from Walgreen's rather than going through a distributor, but I have been around here long enough to know that if you can't get a whole loaf, you take a half loaf, and if you can't get a half loaf, you take a slice. This is really just kind of a crumb, Jacky, but it is a step in the right direction, and it is a blow for the free enterprise system because you can never tell if one of Senator Weihing's friends out there accustomed to drinking Jack Daniels and he can't get his favorite brand, he might switch to something else and find something he likes better. So, we'd assume that that is why they are willing to make this one minor concession. They'd just as soon keep you on the brand you are accustomed to rather than let you shop around a bit, but it is kind of interesting in this body that we talk so much about equity and individual rights, and so forth, but there aren't very many people who understand what we have in the area of liquor and beer distributors, and that is a very tightly protected system, and I am sure they have some good reasons for it, and I like all those people, they are great friends of mine. I use a little of their products from time to time, but I think it ought to be noted that what we have is a protection for the wholesaler, and 99 percent of the public have no idea that it even exists. And so to the extent that we might educate them just a little bit here today, I think it ought to be noted. I