

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...I'm sure there has.

SENATOR HALL: ...well, can you point it out? You stated that there were a number of them and I guess my question is, has there ever been a case in Nebraska where a franchisee...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes.

SENATOR HALL: ...had their franchise stripped...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, there has.

SENATOR HALL: ...and received...in the case of a beer wholesaler...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes.

SENATOR HALL: ...and they never received any money for that?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, I don't know about that, Senator Hall, we're not talking about never received any money for it, but if you're in negotiations for...with a large franchisor from outside the State of Nebraska and they come in and tell you they are not going to allow you to transfer this to your relative and after maybe 30 years of trying to build up an investment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yeah, I'm not going to sit here and talk about individual cases. I mean, I can go...

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. The issue is that Senator Ashford...(recorder skips) were individual cases and there may very well be in some other franchise situations. But I don't think there has ever been one with regard to a beer franchise where an individual has (a) had their franchise stripped and then not received any remuneration for that, it just doesn't happen. See, the fact of the matter is, is that the whole system is, of the three tier system with regard to liquor, is set up so that there is an imbalance, there is an imbalance for everybody who is outside of it. There is no equality of bargaining with regard to any aspect of that chain when you go from the manufacturer to the wholesaler to the retailer. They are all separate and distinct. They have walls