

committee amendments.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I move the committee amendments. The committee amendments, the first part of it, provides due process for persons violating the act. We thought we should put this in there so it would make it constitutional. Also, the committee felt that we should increase the tax on marijuana from the original portion of the bill. On marijuana it would be...it would go from \$10 an ounce to \$100 an ounce. On substance sold by weight, such as cocaine, in grams, from \$50 a gram to \$150 per gram. I move for the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any discussion on the adoption of the committee amendments? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I haven't had the opportunity to analyze this bill in detail, so I won't be offering amendments to it, but I'm going to oppose the committee amendments. I'm going to oppose the bill. Many times when we have a serious problem, such as we do with drugs, all kinds of ideas are presented for the purpose of trying to grapple with it. This idea...Senator Conway, generally, is not so cockamamie, or whatever the word is, in his legislative proposals, but this is one that I cannot take seriously in the sense of feeling that it's going to do anything toward dealing with the problem. It's another of those cosmetic efforts that gives the impression that the Legislature has evaluated and analyzed the situation and is really coming down hard with some effective laws that are going to diminish the sale and use of drugs. If I were out there selling drugs, and it came to my attention that I've got to pay taxes on it, then to me that is the state recognizing a certain amount of legitimacy in what I'm doing, and paying the tax is a cost of doing business. So, if your taxes that you levy against me, or choose to levy against me, raise the cost of doing business, I'd just do more business. It would be helpful, if people who bring these bills, would take the time to get a clear idea of what is going on out there where this kind of activity occurs. Nothing that the state does should stand as an affirmative encouragement to sell more drugs. That's what this bill will do. First of all, if you catch the nickel and dime marijuana sellers, they're not going to have any money on them. So you put a lien against their property, which means a shirt, a pair of pants, some running shoes, and maybe somebody lets them flop at their apartment, so there may be a