

couple of pillows, maybe an air mattress, and the state takes that and sells it to get the taxes that have not been paid. The tax on illegal gambling, which the federal government imposes, has not diminished gambling to any extent at all. And it does give gamblers the feeling that the federal government does recognize some legitimacy in it. For the state to try to recognize or obtain profits from illegal activity is, in my opinion, a mistake. This bill is not imposing a criminal penalty on somebody for engaging in criminal conduct. It is imposing a tax. A tax is in the nature of a civil act by the government. The tax does not criminalize anything. The tax recognizes that money is being derived from an activity and the state is going to get a part of it. This bill, in my opinion, is not going to make any difference in the amount of drugs sold. It's not going to, in any way, intimidate people from selling drugs. But I think it will have the negative effect of giving an air of legitimacy to the sale of those drugs. The drug dealer can say, don't mess with me, I pay taxes. You don't pay taxes, you cheat on yours, I pay all of mine. I got my tax stamp right here. Senator Hefner, may I ask you a question. Is there a stamp or some indication that the...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...person has paid such a tax that is given?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Chambers, I couldn't answer that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I'll ask Senator Conway.

SENATOR HEFNER: Why don't you refer that to Senator...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Conway, would you respond.

SENATOR CONWAY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Conway, is there a tax, I mean a stamp or some indication that the person has paid taxes?

SENATOR CONWAY: Under the original bill there was a stamp. I have an amendment that will address it differently, and what you