

twenty-nine, not in this form.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. Just very briefly, Senator Chambers brings us now an amendment that really does strike to the heart of things, and I understand Senator Hall when he says that this would wreak havoc in the spirits industry. I also know that the tobacco industry is having a difficult time because of the decreased amount of usage among Americans today, so I know the tobacco industry is doing some things to protect itself because it is a business. They are expanding. They are getting into the other areas. I don't have a real big concern about the spirits industry if all of a sudden there was a market drop in consumption. I think like any other industry, when the product is not acceptable anymore, not being accepted en masse by the public, the industry either goes belly-up or the industry does what all business does, that is, diversify, expand, get into other areas. And that is part of capitalism, that is part of the free-market system, so that doesn't bother me. What does kind of bother me a little bit, and I know this debate on the Chambers's amendments after amendment after amendment has gone on, but I really thing we have an amendment here that people need to think seriously about. If we are truly serious about our children and alcoholic consumption, if we are truly serious about admitting that there is a terrible problem out there, and we understand that our children and the students that we have in our schools look at adults and imitate a tremendous amount, and if we at the one hand say that we are going to allow the distribution of alcohol for lack of a better term to our minors, but at the same point we are going to try to criticize our minors for that consumption, we can do that as a body. I suspect we probably will do that as a body, but the body deep down has to have one of those feelings that this isn't right. I think Senator Chambers gives us an interesting choice. The drugs that Senator Lowell Johnson is dealing with and Senator Pirsch in her bills are terrible and devastating and the bills, the amendment and bills need to be moved forward. But Senator Chambers is also saying that there is a tremendous alcohol problem and he is willing to apply alcohol to the same standards as drugs because it is equally as bad, if not more harmful, but yet he is willing to say, listen, if you want to do different things in the privacy of your own home, that is fine. We have already got statutes and legal decisions on those. So it really gets down