

Langford, would you accept call ins?

SENATOR LANGFORD: Yes, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Call ins are accepted.

CLERK: Senator Abboud voting yes. Senator Schellpeper voting yes. Senator Hartnett voting yes. Senator Hefner voting yes.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Chambers to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS. Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, I will agree, if somebody wanted to characterize what we call legal drugs as a raging rhinoceros, destroying and wreaking havoc wherever it goes. It is nearsighted but it has a keen sense of smell so it may not be very good at distinguishing that which it ought to run over from that which it should not. And the same way with these illicit drugs, they make no distinction between the young, the middle-aged, or the old, the infirm, the highly intelligent, or whatever, but if illicit drugs are a rhinoceros, alcohol is a Tyrannosaurus Rex. It causes far more harm in every respect than all of these other drugs put together. If we speak against an amendment such as the one that I am offering, we will continue to be in the position of telling young people just say no to drugs of the kind that society doesn't like, but just say maybe to alcohol, or perhaps. A rationalization can be made to justify that drug which the young people constantly hear causes more damage than all the others put together. So it is clear to those who may have just arrived, what this amendment would do is to enhance the punishment for those who give alcoholic beverages to anybody below the age of 18, but it contains a proviso that exempts alcohol which is provided or consumed in the residence of the parent or guardian of the minor. In other words, it retains the law in its present condition. All it does is enhance a punishment. It does not make anything illegal which is legal now. The only thing that it does is to enhance the punishment. That is all, Senator Hall, that is all. It brings us face-to-face with whether we really believe that enhanced punishments ought to attach to conduct which the law already makes illegal, but since Mr. William Bennett said don't touch