

of had to buy the tavern or whatever to get that existing license. And it became sort of like a monopoly with just a few people could get a liquor license. And somewhere along the line that changed and it was easier to get liquor licenses. Grocery stores had them and so forth and so on and it seemed like it was to me a little more fair. I mean if I wanted to start a business and I wanted to serve liquor I could do it if I got licensed by the city council. I'm not talking about your indefinitely postpone, with LR 9, would we go back to status quo? Would we go back to where it would be hard to get a liquor license that only those could get one that probably had one or you'd have to buy the liquor license that was going out of business or how would that affect it? Would we go back to that?

SENATOR WILL: Well, what LR 9 would do is it would set up a system that we'd statutorily recognize the authority of the cities and counties to grant liquor licenses within the jurisdictions authorized by the Legislature. So theoretically at least the Legislature would still set up the standards. My fear is that it might mean a return to the days where a local subdivision had complete control and, you know, if you're friends with the people on the council that's fine. And if you're not, you might be in trouble.

SENATOR ROBAK: In other words, they could say, no, you can't have a liquor license...

SENATOR WILL: Theoretically.

SENATOR ROBAK: ...with this LR.

SENATOR WILL: Theoretically they could.

SENATOR ROBAK: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, members, the...to take up the kill motion I guess you come down to a fundamental philosophical opinion about whether or not you think this issue deserves to be in the Constitution or not. I guess I can't make lengthy arguments one way or the other on this issue. I think what we're trying to do is set up a standard by which the municipalities can regulate liquor licenses in their jurisdictions. I haven't heard anybody argue that they should