

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 12, 1999 LB 126

your role as a scientist now and getting away from how you personally would describe it, does alcohol has the characteristics and produce the effects of a drug?

SENATOR DIERKS: It sure can.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is alcohol addictive?

SENATOR DIERKS: Absolutely.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is anything, other than a drug, addictive in the way that alcohol is? Now, see, I like candy and sometimes I jestingly say I'm addicted, but if I don't eat it, I don't have tremors or anything like that. Is there any substance other than a drug, which is addictive in the way that alcohol is?

SENATOR DIERKS: Other than a drug?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: I think you probably described it best, maybe candy or food, work.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, food is a necessity. It is not a drug.

SENATOR DIERKS: Some people are workaholics.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, we may as well be very blunt this morning because this bill is aimed to hurt young people. Alcohol is a drug. People who get addicted to drugs are drug addicts. They don't want to call people who get addicted to alcohol drug addicts, so they say you're an alcoholic and that you're ill. But if somebody is addicted to cocaine or heroin, he or she is a druggie and is nothing but a junkie or an addict. Those who sell marijuana, heroin, amphetamines, or any of the other drugs is called a drug dealer. These are not retailers. You all give them a nice name. They are drug dealers and they sell drugs and they sell drugs to