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Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 7, 2003

LB 283

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I stand to support this amendment. It's an interesting proposition that we would raise tax on a can of beer two cents. Seems to me we've been discussing that a time before, and thought that was...that one cent was astronomical. I don't know what two cents...what two times astronomical is going to be. That's more than our words can carry us. But I must respond to some of the debate that has been on the floor about it; one, that this is going to create border bleed. That is just (laugh) an incredible argument, that anybody is going to be driving across the border for two cents. One, that it's...and another, that this is not shamefully low because it's the same as the other states. Well, obviously, the states around us are shamefully low, because anybody looking at this product and the cost that we are providing and that every other state is providing would have to recognize some genius has been in charge of keeping this tax at an extremely low level, a shamefully low level. If we were to do this, I think our society would be benefited, and those who drink alcohol would be benefited. And we would have a chance to do some of the things that we really need to do. Mr. Speaker, I yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers, you have a little over three minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Senator Kruse. It gave me time to draft an amendment to my amendment. Although my amendment goes to the committee amendment, the committee amendment has already been adopted. So I am not offering an amendment to an amendment when I do...I mean, I'm offering an amendment to my amendment. But mine is an amendment now to the bill, my original one. And as I said, I'm going to take plenty of time, and I'm not going to rush, because we're not in a hurry. I believe that this afternoon has been ceded to me, c-e-d-e-d, that means relinquished to, or handed over. And I do think the consumption of alcohol is something that merits serious discussion by the Legislature. I have talked about its contribution to crime. It contributes also to many physical ailments. One of them even has a comical name, the jimjam tremens. Somebody might say, well, you're talking about the DTs. And I think that might be dementia tremens or