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LB 283

they would never get any assistance from me in doing such a thing as that. Back to this amendment, the reason for this date being in the bill is because the liquor industry said that it would be better to start collecting this tax sooner than later. So once again, the liquor industry is to be accommodated. I don't think that is a wise decision. I don't think it is a good thing for the Legislature to let itself be viewed as an institution, as some thing which can so easily be co-opted, moved away from its responsibility. So I want to try to dismantle this bill. At a later time this afternoon, I'm going to offer another amendment to raise the amount that will be brought in by this tax, and it will be five cents more than what one part of the bill calls for now. But I have one before that that will attempt to raise the amount. Liquor has been known by the name of John Barleycorn. When you hear that, you know what they're talking about. They used to consume John Barleycorn in Congress before they went on the floor. And some of the congresspersons, well, congressmen, that's what they were at that time, would have a flask and they would consume it on the floor of Congress. By Congress, now I mean the House of Representatives. There were senators who tiddled but they were more discreet in theirs; they would not carry John Barleycorn onto the floor of the Senate except internally. But these people in the House of Representatives were looked down upon. They were considered the riffraff, the rabble, and they were given only two years to their term because that's about as long a time as the republic could put up with them without being torn apart. What these people would do on the floor of the House was to rear back and put their feet up on the desks. They would whittle sticks. They would skeet tobacco. They would make carvings on any wooden surface in the chamber. They would curse, they would threaten, they would fistfight, and they carried dirks--that's what they called knives. They carried clubs. And Senator Tyson will be pleased to know this; some of these even carried firearms onto the floor of the House. And when people would watch, sometimes it looked like everything was in a shambles.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There would be so much confusion, immediately