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LB 283

from prehistoric days. But as far back as you go into recorded history, you can find alcohol and its influence. So it has been here from time immemorial and it's going to stay here. Its ravages have been documented so many times that anybody could tell you some form of these ravages. And it's almost impossible to exaggerate them, both on the individual and on the society. Yet, societies continue, not only to tolerate alcohol but to profit from it. Taxation, in a sense, could be looked at as profiting from alcohol, or it could be looked at as a method of trying to control it. With this bill, the only purpose is to profit from it, to raise revenue. My only intent is to raise as much revenue as the Legislature is willing to undertake.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would not say that adding two cents to a can of beer is going to discourage anybody from drinking it, and that is not my intention. If you added a dollar to it, maybe that would, but that would not be why I would want to tax it. And because I'm not trying to stop people from drinking it, the tax increases that I have suggested are modest. They don't even rise to the level of moderate. They are modest in the extreme. It will not diminish the amount of alcohol consumed so the retailers don't have to worry. The wholesalers don't have to worry. The distillers, none of them, has to worry. The state will derive some revenue, and if that other amendment I have offered...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your motion to reconsider the vote taken on FA1351 to LB 283.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. And Senator Landis, being the honorable person that he knows how to be, gave me forewarning that he is going to seek cloture, just so nobody will think that he blindsided me. And I have always stood on the floor and said what I am doing,