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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 283, 759

thought I'd do it one more time, because it's been about two hours since you've heard me on this subject. Get back into the fray to make clear where things are. Now, here's a piece that is true about the liquor piece, that was both in LB 283 yesterday and is in LB 759. And that is that there is an agreement, and it represents an agreement between myself and the lobby. That does exist. The original bill had about \$10 million in it. After the public hearing and an understanding of what that did to us with respect to other states, I nominated the terms that are in LB 283. I nominated the four and a half million dollars. I nominated those amounts which are 200 percent higher than states around us. Wasn't dictated to me. Those happened to be my numbers. I gave and I got. I gave away the amount that was originally in the bill, which, by the way, I hadn't done any more research than to say, give me a bill that will bring in 10 million bucks, down to an amount that placed us higher than all the states around us, with exception for two states in one of the three areas. In other words, out of the three kinds of liquor, we're higher than all the states around us except for one kind of liquor in one state and one kind of liquor in another. The amount by which we are higher varies from roughly 80 percent to 200 percent. In those six or seven states, in those 21 categories, 19 of which we will be the highest, those...the amount that in those 19 categories we are higher, the general range is someplace between 80 and 200 percent. Now, that's what I gave. And here's what I got. I got the agreement that there wouldn't be a fight on the floor for those terms. I got it from two of the three kinds of liquor. And the third kind of liquor has maintained, I think, a formal opposition, but I think it's been quiet. You haven't had, for example, a lot of liquor retailers writing you. You haven't had a writing campaign. You haven't had an e-mail campaign like you've had in...with respect to the construction stuff, with respect to repair parts. You haven't had that, because, essentially, that's what I got for what I gave. I am the only one bound by that. The Revenue Committee is not bound that. What the Revenue Committee did was they laid out the facts, and they thought the deal was, I think, relatively fair. I think they thought the terms were fair. And to the extent that I put it in the form of an amendment, they voted for it. Are they bound? No, I don't think so, formally. I'm the one