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February 17, 2005 LB 563

motion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am a teetotaler. Senator Janssen, I am not in my mode of attacking every bill yet because of what happened on the National Guard bill, so I want you to know this is not related to that at all. Since I don't drink alcohol, have never drunk alcohol...the closest I came to it was one time I had shaved and nicked near my lip, put some alcohol on it, and then when I licked my lip I tasted and I said, what in the world would people pour this stuff in a glass and drink it for? But anyway, Senator Janssen, this beverage...this is really a mixed drink that we're talking about, isn't it?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Janssen, would you yield?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yes, Senator Chambers, it has beer which comes from the fermentation process, and it has...also has alcohol derived from distillation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it can be up to 49 percent alcohol derived from distillation.

SENATOR JANSSEN: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if it's not defined as beer, it's going to be defined as liquor. It's going to be one or the other, right?

SENATOR JANSSEN: That's correct, uh-huh.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When I look at the ones who testified, I haven't talked to any of them, was that their concern, that we're taking a liquor and defining it as beer?

SENATOR JANSSEN: Well, that, according to the federal statutes, the rules that just came down from them, it can't have any more than 49 percent of the distilled product in it and still be called...called a beer.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand that...