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FLOOR DEBATE

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arguments are there that we tax tobacco to pay for Medicaid and other issues associated to the effects of tobacco, we're far from that policy because tobacco pays for, at least in the city of Lincoln, it pays for city improvements. But I don't know how much tax revenue comes about in Lincoln now that the...can't smoke too much in Lincoln, but that's a debate for another day. But the fact is, I think this is a reasonable...LB 563 is reasonable in looking at the tax policy and relating...in relation to what we tax, how we tax it, and that's why I have reservations about the Chambers amendment. I think it attempts to leave in place a policy that is convoluted and difficult to adhere to, and certainly would probably, if the amendment is adopted, I think it could be found to have some loopholes in it anyway. And that's why I think that LB 563 is a straightforward approach and that's why I would like to see us advance that without the Chambers amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. On with discussion of FA31. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I sit back here and I've not talked to any lobbyist today on this and I don't know I've talked to any on this subject at all, but I sit back here kind of grinning, thinking to myself, what in the world are we doing talking about this? We happen to have a store that does sell these beverages and, as Senator Janssen pointed out, all we're talking about here is forcing the manufacturers of this to change the source of the alcohol. They're not going to (laugh)...they must be laughing out back, or the manufacturers, at us, wring your hands and worrying about this. I just, it seems to me like a bit of a waste of time or stretch of the imagination to think this is going to make any difference. These flavored drinks, to me, when I see people buying them, they're middle-aged folks, generally female it seems like. Price doesn't seem to bother them, because these are higher-priced products. If I see anything out of the result of this it's the blue bottle, the Skyy Blue bottle. I guess if you aren't anyone special, you just drink the other stuff. You want something that marks you in buying the more expensive alcohol here, you buy the blue bottle. It's distinctive, obviously. But I just shake my head and think, what are