

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 14, 2005 LB 563

go by now that have been passed in Washington calls for 49 percent can come...no more than 49 percent can come from distillation and at least 51 percent has to come from fermentation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Janssen, in this state, this Legislature can define beer any way it chooses. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR JANSSEN: I don't believe so, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If we define a substance as beer but it has more than an amount of alcohol that the federal government would allow, there might be some ramifications in terms of what you can do as far as taxing.

SENATOR JANSSEN: That's correct. Uh-huh.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But we can call it beer if we choose. Can't we?

SENATOR JANSSEN: I believe so, but the tax would be different on it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We can define...we can take the definition of wine that's currently in Nebraska statute and let that be a definition for beer, if we choose. We can substitute the word "beer" for "wine" if we choose. Can't we?

SENATOR JANSSEN: I believe you could do that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yeah, we can do it.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Members of the Legislature, some people have asked me, since I've mentioned "Emperor" Radcliffe's name, why do I call him the "Emperor"; does that mean I think he's all powerful as some people do? Absolutely not. That comes from the story about the pompous self-filled fool who was called an emperor, so full of himself