

May 2, 1975

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Chambers, you know me for a compassionate individual. I'd ask that in another way.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I'm talking about you in the role of a businessman now.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well the Chamber of Commerce has never seen me in that role.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well look, to specify and kind of focus in on the target, there was once a governor of New York and he was a high ranking businessman. He said, "the kind of fellas that we want to put in the political office are those who won't steal, but who won't bother those who want to steal", which would be the businessmen. So I'm putting you in the position of a businessman. If you were a businessman, would you be interested in taking as much profit as you possibly could without being put in jail?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well Senator Chambers, my image does lend to that with my expanded girth and my cigar. Images can be wrong. I would think . . . the point you make is that in a monopolistic situation that might be correct, however, I think the competitive market would preclude what you're suggesting.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Lewis, are you opposed to LB 204?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I voted that bill out of committee.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, LB 204 has to do with Senator DeCamp calls it price stabilization or something. However, you cut it, it comes out the same way. Senator Lewis I think knows that the liquor industry is so heavily regulated. Because of its very nature it allows the possibility for so many and such great abuse. Therefore, when you look at the entire spectrum of liquor production, consumption and sale, there is no reason to believe that any savings that would be gained by these people would be passed on to the consumer. For my part, I'm glad of that. I would like to see the retailers jack their price up as high as they possibly can, but I want them all to do it. I want them all to do it. I would like two fingers of liquor to cost \$300. Really. Then you price it out of the market. In all seriousness, I hope you do not adopt Senator R. Lewis' amendments, then this bill will be shown somewhat for what it actually is. That's the big end again in the liquor industry. Senator F. Lewis is doing this job admirably. I hope this bill does not get enough votes to finally pass. If it does I hope it passes in the form that Senator F. Lewis has it so that the consumers will be bumped on the head again. They say if you find a sucker bump his head, will if somebody's dumb enough to buy liquor in the first place stick him for as much as you can. There are lobbyists who I think would favor this bill who don't even sell liquor because liquor is the oil that often lubricates a Senators vocal cords. It soaks his brain. When his brain is floating