

May 9, 1973

(Begin Belt #15)

I have no particular interest in this bill or its contents. I think it's fair to say in the last 15 years or so I have introduced about all the legislation pertaining to the taxation and the administration of the liquor laws of the State of Nebraska. If you'll go to page 3 in the white book, you'll find it says including a wholly owned affiliate or duly authorized agent for a manufacture. Now that's only the expansion of a definition to broaden the interpretation of the application of the law that now exists, it really doesn't do anything except to that extent. If you go on page 9 and throughout the bill you will find references to dispensers. The Liquor Commission in the beginning were not adverse to this particular part of this bill. Since that time I have had communications from them that they are not too acceptable of this particular provision. Now what this provision does, it licenses those who work in the area of those dispensing intoxicating liquors except in grocery stores where all they do is to carry it out, mainly beer, from the store into the car or the vehicle in which it's hauled away from the place of business. If the bill moves to Select File and if the Liquor Commission after I contact them are still adverse to the adoption of this particular part of this bill, then I'll offer an amendment to strike out any reference to the dispensers in this act. Now the intent of it was originally and still is that it gives the ones who for the most part create to some extent the infraction of the laws the responsibility they must have more of a concern than many of us think they now do to the point that if we as a licensee are cited, they are also cited if they are responsible for the sale which is contrary to the State law. Now it doesn't do anything to them except to make them more alert and more receptive to the responsibility of those things which I think they ought to have a greater interest in than many of them do now. I'm sure you realize that many businesses of this nature, the owner many times and probably most of the time is not always there and he does leave the custody of his operation to those who he employs. This type of a business has no vested interest at all, it's only a privilege. But it can be roped any time in which those have the responsibility to comply with the law, intentionally or otherwise, violates the law. So I want to make this definitely known that if the Commission is still in the frame of mind when the bill gets on Select File as they are now, then I'll have them give me an amendment which will strike from the bill any reference to the area of those which would be effective as I have outlined. If you'll go down on page 9 which is of considerable interest of a great many people, the bottle clubs in the beginning were the means and the end in many areas, Lincoln being an illustration, which because of the numerical number of bottle clubs it forced eventually the people of Lincoln and many other areas to adopt Class C licenses which is liquor by the drink. We now propose that we do away with the bottle clubs for all practical purposes because they no longer would have to have a membership as they now do and which is eliminated in this law. It also says that you can have this type of a Class C license in all counties with a population of 5500 or more. Now the reason for that is, I presume, they don't want these things scattered all over the sandhills and other places of really no population. So this is the type of business that requires more supervision, both by those who operate it and by the law than the normal operation does. So this also raises the fee, doubles the fee from what it now is for a Class C license located in an incorporated area of a city or any incorporated village. Now this is done because these places are for the most part located in the counties and the sheriff of the county feels that it will require more supervision on their part and they feel that the licensee for the change in the law and the privilege we give them if we do can well afford to pay double what they're not paying for a Class C license. Now and the other on 553,