

March 27, 1974

(Begin Belt 13B)

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Kremer, if you're through, turn off your light. Thank you. Now, Senator DeCamp. Are you through back there discussing the Barnett amendment? Okay. Senator Barnett are you all through with the discussion?

SENATOR BARNETT: I don't think I'm going to stop for just a second. I think I've got to answer Proud.

PRESIDENT: Okay, go ahead.

SENATOR BARNETT: He knows why, that's why he asked the question. But I think one thing that is pretty...one thing that we should say is the fact that there are a lot of people that do the paying for things they don't use, Senator Proud, and you know that as well as I do. But I also think that one thing that we do in this act and we have to admit it, if we're going to adopt it, and that is that we make it a sickness instead of a criminal act. And the insurance policies are for covering sickness and illness. I think that's the whole basis of the insurance coverage.

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney, we're still discussing the Barnett amendment to the bill...Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I'd like to make a statement in reference to what Senator Proud just said. If a man drives a car, he takes out insurance. But here you're forcing a man, if he doesn't drink to take out insurance. Is that correct, Senator Proud?

PRESIDENT: Senator Proud, do you care to respond to the question?

SENATOR PROUD: Well, in regard to what Senator Barnett said, he...I don't think he missed my point but maybe he did. The point is that an insurance company can cover alcoholics right now if they want to. There's nothing to stop an insurance company from covering you. And I think some insurance companies do. My point is, this amendment requires the insurance company to cover them and therefore, the person who doesn't want that kind of a coverage has to pay for it for the potential alcoholic and that's fairly discriminatory and ridiculous.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Senator Proud, does it mean that whether or not you have to take out insurance? I thought I heard an answer in the affirmative. Is that correct, Senator Proud?

SENATOR PROUD: Pardon me, Senator, I didn't hear you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Proud, do you care to respond?

SENATOR WHITNEY: What if you don't drink. Do you still have to take out insurance because you might be drink not drinking?

SENATOR PROUD: You don't have to take out insurance, nobody has to take out insurance except automobile liability coverage up to, I think, it's \$10,000. But the point is, if you pass this amendment and you take out a health and accident policy, you're going to pay a premium to cover every potential alcoholic. Your premium is going to be increased to cover