

February 4, 1980

LB 696

SENATOR NICHOL: That is right. This was not part of the original bill.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay. I notice in there it says something about six percent marijuana or something, how did we arrive at, for example, six percent and what were the standards or how do we get there?

SENATOR NICHOL: Pardon me. Were you asking me a question?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: What was the question again, I am sorry?

SENATOR DeCAMP: In the bill, it says something, let me see here, "preparation, mixture, compound", page 9, top of the page, "or other substance which contains six percent or more by weight of tetrahydrocannabinols". How do we arrive at six percent or what...how was that standard achieved?

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't know. I don't know. This was worked out by I believe...

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. Gibson, maybe, huh?

SENATOR NICHOL: Perhaps. Perhaps.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, I am concerned about law enforcement and drug enforcement as anybody. I think the record will show that but when we adopt major legislation, and this is major legislation, making dramatic changes in the law, I think we should know maybe fundamentally a little more what, why, how, where they came from, so on and so forth. The indications are at this time, at least at this time, that this noncontroversial bill had this put into it by, I guess, Mr. Gibson who is with the County Attorney's office. We don't know whether six percent has any relevance or doesn't have any relevance. We have seen, we have seen as a country, we have seen as a state that we can make the most stringent, tough laws in the world but we can sometimes be counterproductive. Now it is a known fact, and it is known by all forty-nine members of this Legislature that there are young people that smoke marijuana in this state and there are young people who even smoke marijuana and turn around and maybe sell marijuana to their friends. Basically with this legislation, you are making a pretty serious change and you are saying, okay, we say it is okay for you young people, we know there is marijuana smoking going on, we are not going to lock you up forever,

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