

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield just made her introductory statement on the bill itself.

SENATOR CARSTEN: I was not quite clear whether she was closing on it. Mr. President and members, I want to assure you that those of us that are supporting this bill have no problem, once we get this small industry moving, to bring it up to the level, as far as the tax is concerned, as the other wines are. But I think that we will appreciate, as well as those that are interested in starting this with their own money will appreciate this break that we will give them. But at some future point, once they are ongoing and working, then I think we can address the tax question. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I've got a little reservation about this bill. I'll tell you why. We are encouraging wineries and drinking of...which is an alcoholic beverage, and yet we turn around and we pass legislation in regards to DWI, discourage drinking and everything. So I don't know whether any of you in this body has them kind of reservations, but I sure do. I don't know whether I...I don't think I can support the bill because I think we are encouraging drinking, and then we turn around and do legislation to discourage alcoholism in DWI laws. So I just wanted to make my point. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, you may think this is an odd stance for me to take on the legislative floor, but I've not been a supporter of prohibition, and I was alive at the time. I do not feel that you are using a valid argument when you are using that concept as your argument. Talk about broadening the opportunities in the State of Nebraska. Do you have the right to thwart that? Alcohol is not the problem. It is the use or misuse of it. I do support LB 279.