

up again, not because they've committed any sin, not because they have done anything, but because it just seems popular to say, do it to the people that sell alcohol. We don't do it to the druggist that sells drugs. We don't do it to race tracks. We don't seem to do it every year or every other year or propose doing it to any other business. I think it's an unfair thing and I'm going to have to be opposed to it simply because I represent so many small businessmen in my district and I really question whether all of them across the state know that these agreements are being reached and I think it's a tremendous increase percentagewise. Thank you, Senators.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Senator Higgins. Next is Senator Nelson, then Senator Beutler, Pirsch and Senator Hefner. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam President, I am the introducer of this bill along with Senator Pirsch, Senator Sieck and Lundy and so on. In answer to Senator Higgins, first of all when I introduced this bill or thought of it I was out campaigning door to door and if there was anything that people brought to my attention it was the alcohol and the drug abuse problems. I might, in answer first to Senator Higgins before I forget it, naturally I would look to the alcohol industry for help in correcting these problems that they cost. Nationwide drug and alcohol programs have cost us somewhere around \$130 million a year. Our young people from the ages 15 to 24, it is a leading killer of these people. This disease, from the time that I started on this bill, was second in the nation as the leading killer of people. Just recently it advanced to be the leading killer in the nation, drug and alcohol disease. And yet it is funded the least, something like .0015 percent of the funding for drug and alcohol abuse programs. Alcoholism is figured in over 50 percent of our car accidents. It is involved in over 80 percent of the homicides, 50 percent of forcible rape, 72 percent of robberies and it just goes on and on. Chemical dependency hits all people. No community small or large is not affected by the problems of alcohol and drug abuse and we're finding that daily at a younger age are we having alcohol and drug problems and naturally this is the industry that I would look at for help. In answer to the question whether or not the small businessperson is affected, this is not a tax that they're paying. This is a tax that the consumer pays. And I might tell you that I