

held a survey in my district, two surveys, in fact. Would you care to raise the alcohol tax for alcohol and drug abuse programs? And I had over 90 percent, 97 percent in one survey. The people are willing to pay. They see the need and I'm not raising this as a revenue bill. I realize that the dollars do add up and they add up rapid. On the beer, on this tax that I am proposing, it takes 123 cans of beer to be a \$1.00 bill. It takes...it's .4 of a cent on a glass of wine and .2 of a cent on spirited drinks and it is a very negligible amount. I'm saying that if they're having a round of drinks at night, they're not going to stop drinking because of that \$1.00 bill that they may spend for alcohol tax through the year. My programs that I have tried to develop, the need is out there, will be targeted from the 7th and the 8th grade in school through the young age of 24 and 25 and education in drug and alcohol abuse programs. Also when I was out campaigning, Region III is what we call it, we have five regions in the state which are mental, alcohol and drug abuse programs and I found out how underfunded these programs are. Actually alcohol tax and funding for these programs has not increased appreciably in the last four years and that was another reason. The tax has not been raised since 1981 and I'm sure that the liquor wholesalers and I know the beer wholesalers did contact their dealers and most of them do know that we're having this raise in alcohol tax and, in fact, actually the raise is very little bit more than the actual inflation rate and I am introducing an A bill in a few minutes and I'll address that.

SENATOR MARSH: We're still on the committee amendments and Senator Beutler is next. Excuse me, the amendment to the committee amendment, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: A question of Senator Johnson if I may. Senator Johnson, for the first time in my six years I noticed something in the committee report that I have not seen previously. It says, the Revenue Committee has adopted these amendments and forwards this legislation to the floor with the understanding that the taxing structure in these rates for alcohol will be retained until October of 1989. Why is it appropriate to put into the committee report, which is the report of the official committee action, a statement with regard to the unenforceable and unofficial intent of individual members of the Revenue Committee with regard to this issue?