

yet when have we proposed a higher tax on drugs in general because some people become addicted to them and abuse them? We have never done it. When you say that the small bar owner or cocktail lounge that sells beer or wine isn't going to pay the tax the consumer does, the consumer pays the tax on everything that we tax. A loaf of bread would be 50 percent cheaper if it weren't for all the taxes between the time the farmer grows the wheat or the grain and the time it reaches the grocery store. That was proven in a study I read years ago. It would be 50 percent cheaper. So ultimately whenever you put a tax on, the consumer always pays it no matter what he is consuming, a loaf of bread or a glass of wine. I repeat, when you increase the tax on alcohol, the small business owner has no choice but to increase the cost to the consumer and eventually it will drive him out of business, the same as if we really did put a tax on grain because that is where alcohol comes from, or grapes with Senator Scofield's winery, but on all wine, if we taxed the farmers that raise the fruit that makes the wine. I am merely saying that all of the different diseases that are caused, has anybody in here ever proposed a tax on condoms or anything to stop venereal disease? Senator Marsh has said, yes. I don't know if it happened before I came or not, but I don't know what you tax to prevent venereal disease...

SENATOR MARSH: One minute, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...or how often you tax it. But I am just saying I agree with Senator Beutler, you are making a lot of people pay a tax on something over which they have no power. My husband does not drink at all so he would not be affected by this. On the other hand, my husband and I have no children but we pay whopping property taxes to educate your children. I have never complained about that. I just complain when you take one industry and pick on it and pick on it and pick on it. And as Senator Beutler pointed out, what this session does to alcohol and the tax is no guarantee that any other of the...

SENATOR MARSH: Time is up.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...48 senators don't have the choice next year to do it to them again. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: A point of order.