

SENATOR MARSH: Yes, "Mrs. Johnson".

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you. You did it to me just right, Madam Speaker. The question is this, is that what is up for consideration right now is my amendment to the committee amendment which simply deals with the operative date of the bill and so far each one of our speakers has talked about the committee amendment. Could I at least limit the debate to the operative date of the bill or advance that amendment?

SENATOR MARSH: Do any of the senators whose lights are still remaining on wish to speak to the operative date? I call the question on the operative date amendment to the amendment. Those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Senator Marsh voting aye. The Clerk will record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Marsh voting yes. 18 ayes, 1 nay on the adoption of the Vard Johnson amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR MARSH: The amendment to the amendment is adopted. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. I didn't support the bill the way it was originally written because the taxes I thought would go up too much in too short a time. The original bill was drafted like especially on beer it went from 14 cents a gallon to 24 cents a gallon at one time. I thought that we needed to phase the increase in so it wouldn't be too hard for the retailers. And so I was part of the compromise, part of the compromise group that met and worked this amendment out. The way the amendment reads now like with beer it would go from 14 cents a gallon to 20 cents a gallon beginning October 1, 1985. That is this year yet. And then beginning October 1, 1987 it would go to 23 cents a gallon. The original bill would have had it at 24 cents a gallon. The wine, with two categories of wine, would be the same. Distilled spirits would go from in the original bill \$2.75 to \$3.00 a gallon. With the amendment it goes from \$2.75 a gallon to \$2.90 a gallon beginning October 1, 1985 and then up to \$3.00 a gallon October 1, 1987. So you can see, Senator Higgins, we are trying to phase this in so it will not be too hard on the retail