

merchants. I talked with some of the bar owners and lounges in my district and they feel that this is a fair compromise. We felt that we needed more money from the liquor tax and I know, I have been down here, this is my ninth year now and it seems like every year we do have a tax bill on liquor, but many years and many times they haven't passed, like the one that we had last year. And so I think it is only fair that you support this bill and do put a little more tax on liquor and beer and wine.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Madam President and members of the body, this morning I went to a groundbreaking ceremony for a mental hospital at Seward, Nebraska. Why do we build that hospital? Because we do have some alcohol problems among the children. This hospital is intended for children, yet this is going to be a private hospital. It will get very little money from the State of Nebraska, if any. As far as the building is concerned, it will get none, and they may get some when there are some patients that do need some welfare support. But most of our children that are in problems with this area go to the institutions of the State of Nebraska for help and these have to be financed some way and I feel every person should be liable for some of those finances. Yes, we did have an agreement and I intend to stand by that, but that doesn't mean that those who didn't agree with the agreement outside of the Revenue Committee can't do anything and we must remember that somebody else might come in a couple years from now and that wouldn't stand. So this is all understood, and we did confer with the liquor industry and they understood this. But I am just certain that nothing will come about because of this. We had an agreement last year and the agreement really was all messed up and that is what happened to us and those things can happen. And there is no hard feelings because of it. We just knew that we had to wait another year. We talk about moderate drinking. I take an occasional drink. I drink my beer occasionally. I am a German and I love my beer, but I am sure glad to pay that tax, and it really doesn't bother me a bit, and I think we should. And we also have to remember the cigarettes. I am constantly...I would just as soon increase the cigarette tax and yet I don't smoke so somebody else is going to pay for that. You talk about extremes in taxes, I think the tobacco industry is really paying more than the liquor industry in comparison.