

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Johnson, will you respond?

SENATOR VICKERS: ...sales tax rates and the income tax rates to the rest of the public that whatever the rates are going to be set by that we are going to agree to abide by them for the next number of years.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Johnson, do you care to respond?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I suppose, if I could get the right deal.

SENATOR VICKERS: I wonder who is going to sign the letter. I will sign the letter as one of the people that pays the taxes and I suppose I could get a lot of other taxpayers to sign it too that we are not going to raise it from now on for a certain period of time. But I think we could be in real trouble if we start doing that sort of thing. I just think this is a terrible precedent we are setting and I want to raise the issue to the body. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Marsh, I guess if this is a deal that is being struck, I guess I have some questions with regard of how good a deal it is. Am I correct, Senator Johnson, in that the deal covers essentially a five-year period. Is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I believe it would, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, and as I understand it, over that five-year period, for example, with regard to distilled spirits, over the five-year period the total increase is going to be about 10 percent. Is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So apparently, even if you are talking about keeping up with inflation, you are assuming that inflation is going to be 2 percent or less a year. Is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: This is a rate bill. Normally, with inflation, prices of commodities change.