

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: If you would like, you may offer an amendment to change the deal.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Perhaps it would make some sense just to strike the committee amendments and start again.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: If you would like, you may strike the committee amendments and start again.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, Senator Johnson.

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I do want to speak to protocol. I have caused Senator Vickers to be offended by the fact that I make representation to a negotiated settlement of a difficult question in a letter and in addition in a committee note. And Senator Vickers says that it is most unfortunate that a liquor tax bill that he intends to introduce next year will probably die in the Revenue Committee because of this negotiated settlement. I suspect that it is correct that the bill would probably die in the Revenue Committee next year because of a negotiated settlement. In truth and fact, virtually every increase that the Nebraska Legislature has been able to effect over the years in the alcohol tax has been the product of a negotiated settlement. We are simply carrying on one of the fine Nebraska legislative traditions of compromise. It is right out here on the floor. You know what it is like. It may offend one's sensibilities as being a free spirit and an independent thinker, but again as I offered Senator Beutler, you may work your own language if you wish. There is...no one is bound on this except me who put my word on it and that is it. Now it is not an easy task to sit as a member of the Revenue Committee because my colleagues bring in many, many bills to exempt many people from paying taxes. And the Revenue Committee has the hard task of saying no to bill after bill after bill and then finally we get a bill to increase taxes and that is as hotly contested by the affected parties as is the interest to exempt people from paying taxes. And so we end up virtually having to try to work things out as best we can so we can get an increase, so we can get an increase, because if we can't get it worked out, the chances on this legislative floor of getting the