

stand in opposition to the amendment offered by Senator Beutler. It would increase the alcohol tax on distilled spirits more than our committee negotiated in good faith with the industry. If I was to support the amendment, I would break the promise of the commitment that I made to the industry as I sat down and negotiated in good faith on an appropriate level of taxation. Senator Nelson has pointed out relatively wisely and well I think that the amount that is at issue with your amendment is modest. But the thing that puzzles me is that when you first stood on the floor on this bill you said, why do we tax this industry so much? And you said it passionately. Why is industry taxed so much? And here you would tax it even more. Now I think I am getting mixed signals and I think there is only one signal in the end and that signal in the end is that you were not part of the negotiating team and have a feeling of being left out. Now, this issue was negotiated at length last year unsuccessfully and there was not 10 cents worth of new money that came into the revenue of the state last year as a result of the unsuccessful negotiation that was effected. I, at least, Senator Nelson, at least, Senator Lundy, at least, Senator Sieck, at least, are prepared to give this body a piece of legislation that has been negotiated, that will start money flowing into the coffers of the state October 1, 1985. Money can start October 1, 1985. If your amendment carries, it could well be that we will spend even less time killing this bill than trying to move it forward. You know, last year it took less time to kill the bill than it has as of this point to move a negotiated settlement forward.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch, did you wish to speak to this amendment? The Beutler amendment, I am talking about.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Are there any others? That's all right. I think I will call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Oh, okay. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease on the Beutler amendment? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on ceasing debate. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Beutler, would you like to close on your amendment?