

minutes.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like briefly to talk about three separate histories. One is the history of the alcohol tax, two is the history of this body and the Governors, and three is the history of 280A. The history of the alcohol tax: A couple of years ago Senator Lundy and Senator Pirsch worked as hard as anybody has ever worked on a bill. It became their work of the session to try to get a major alcohol tax bill passed with the money targeted for specific purposes. I submarined them. I sabotaged them. They know it. We talked about it. They missed by one vote. I made a commitment to them and I said, we worked the last alcohol tax out so that we would know for a period of three to five years that we were going to have a permanent tax, that we wouldn't have a battle where we got destroyed on the floor. This is the last year of it, Senator Pirsch and Senator Lundy. If you would wait one year, until next year, we will work with you in getting the tax that you want. That is what occurred and the alcohol industry did come in and Senator Vard Johnson stood up and ably testified too, in fact, I think for the first time, for the first time they came in and worked and supported a specific tax increase for a specific period of time. People signed off. It is unusual, I agree, but it worked, and as a result of that, something that could have taken weeks and maybe never happen got done. We passed a major alcohol tax increase and then we passed the A bill to go with it and that was passed with the support, with the support of people who might be opposing it normally. It was passed by all of us and the money was targeted quite correctly by the work of Senator Nelson, Senator Lundy, Senator Pirsch for some very specific purposes. That is the history of the alcohol tax at least. Now the history of the body and of the Governors: The history of the body when it comes to mental health, the history of this body and of the Governors of this state is we pick on them more than just about anybody else because they are the weakest. The lame and infirm, that is who we target to diddle when we get ready to do it because they are easy and that is what we are doing today. Now I think the Governor made a mistake in vetoing this particular bill. I don't think he got wise counsel. That is not to say he has made any terrible sin or anything else. It was the collective judgment of this body, the collective judgment based on the whole picture to target that money and do those specific things, and that is what you did. Now if you were