

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol. The speaking order then is Senators Haberman, Beyer, Higgins, Barrett and Chambers.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I oppose this amendment. The bill as it was passed in 1982...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) May we have order, please. There is too much conversational din coming up. (Gavel.) Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Mr. President. The bill as it was passed in 1982 is a good bill. Senator Hoagland was in favor of it all the way, all the way. Now we want to change it. It sent a very strong message to those who want to drink and drive at that time and it should and it still should. If you're caught and prosecuted and found guilty, you're going to lose for a period of time the privilege of driving, no exceptions, no exceptions. And that's the way it should be. Now, we're thinking of creating that first crack, the first loophole in what is a very good, sound law. The law is working. The law is working. The purpose of having a stringent law, such as we do, is first punish those caught and, secondly, deter those who might try to drink and drive and that second item, to try to deter those who drink and drive, it isn't necessary anymore to drink and drive. Across the United States it is being very clearly pointed out we do not need to drink and drive and those who do need to drive for a living should very well get the message. They cannot drink and drive on their off hours, in the evening hours, they are not supposed to drink and drive and if they do, they full well know the consequences. And if we pass this law, we're sending a message to a lot of people out there, if your job depends on that license and you get caught, well, you're going to be treated differently. We're going to ease up on you and they very well get that message that those who need to drive, we have an exception, we get out and we don't need to obey the law such as all the rest of you citizens in the state that cannot drink and drive. So we're saying to these people that do need to drive, and they know darn well that they need to drive in their business, in their job, whatever it is, but no, we're saying to them, well, ol' buddy, we're going to discriminate here and we're going to let you continue to drive even though you disobey the law and it's unfair to the rest of us. The rest