

business and you will invite the "schlotz". Who are the best people? The best people are maybe, for example, the ones that are willing to invest a couple million dollars in a motel or a hotel or a steak house of which a liquor license is a critically important ingredient and whether you're a teetotaler or a drunkard it's a fact of life that a liquor license as part of these establishments is critical. As it is now, they have a predictable standard for this year and every other year and they know what the standards are, what they have to meet. Under the policy of this bill it becomes a completely capricious item from year to year and that is not the type of thing to invite or encourage the best people and the best investors and the best operators. Why will you have 1,000 different standards? Because, as Senator Hefner said, that is exactly the purpose of the bill. That is exactly the purpose. To remove a uniform standard and say to each community, whatever the particular whims or emotions or attitudes or political power and influence in a community is on a particular day in a particular year, that becomes the standard as to who has a liquor license, who gets it renewed, who gets involved in it. The policy you are embarking on is truly dangerous and before you do it, show the fault in the existing system. You know what the fault is claimed to be? The fault is claimed to be that there is too many liquor licenses out there and too many are being granted.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: I do not deny there are too many liquor licenses, but most of these were granted, most of these were granted in previous years and a great number of them are going to go out of business invariably anyway because they simply can't compete anymore. That will solve the problem over the next three or four or five years in the terms of licenses. If you try to artificially solve it by creating a false value for a liquor license which is all the bill is all about, creating a false value for a liquor license which supposedly can't be sold, if you try to do that, which is what the bill is really about, then you will get in the local communities the game playing, the political games and the improper things that go along with it as to try to say this license should be granted and this one shouldn't. Yes, we need a uniform policy and, yes, it is a business and, yes, a strong element of free enterprise is involved. Don't try to alter that under the guise of "local control". It simply won't work. I urge you not to advance the bill. Check out the system the way we have it now. You're going to find out it's one of the best in the United States.