

per case of cigarettes. That is their current allowance. They get that out of our taxes. My amendment would give them \$5.52 cents as opposed to 5.40. They get 5.52 per case of cigarettes. Now keep that figure in your mind, \$5.52. Let me tell you what our wholesalers get when they do business in Iowa. They get \$4.68. When they do business in Kansas, they get \$3.82. When they do business in Colorado, they get \$3.60. When they do business in Missouri, they get \$2.34. When they do business in Wyoming, they get \$2.88. When they do business in South Dakota, they get \$4.83. I am prepared to let our wholesalers receive \$5.52 which will be about \$1 to \$1.50 to \$2.00 more per case than our sister states allow. Does this body want to allow our wholesalers to receive \$6.90, which is about twice as much as Kansas, about twice as much as Colorado, more than twice as much as Missouri, three times as much as Wyoming? For the same amount of work that is done across those borders, those sister states that also impose a cigarette tax get substantially less money...give substantially less discount to the wholesalers. I am suggesting we do the rational thing and do the same. My amendment simply would allow the wholesalers a 4 percent commission for affixing the stamps. It is a hold harmless amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Vard Johnson amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Vard Johnson amendment passes. Do you have anything else on it, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have nothing further on the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, we are back to the bill. Senator Vard Johnson, we are back on the bill and we don't have any further amendments and I don't see any speakers that want to speak. Would you like to close?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will close on this bill. I know this bill is not going to be an easy vote (interruption).