

the last 20 years that our public policy has been undermined, that in effect the suspension fee has been lessened effectively year by year for 20 years. And so I'm proposing just a modest increase in both of the fees which doesn't even keep up with the rate of inflation since 1971, in fact, doesn't even come close but it seems to me that if we're going to maintain the same public policy that we originally enacted in 1971, that this is what we should do to have the same kind of meaningful penalty. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. I'll now recognize Senator Will followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR WILL: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Beutler amendment to LB 586. What Senator Beutler is suggesting is an increase of \$25 in the per day fine that is paid by liquor licensee's whose license is suspended and then they pay an in lieu of fine instead. My reason for objecting to this is that this is a 50 percent increase in the penalty that a liquor licensee pays. It is a 50 percent increase. We're doing it on Select File, we're doing it without a public hearing. I think probably Senator Beutler's amendment, in theory at least, is probably justified by the argument he gave which is that the rate of inflation has far outstripped the changes in the law. But the fact of the matter is to make a change of this type I think we need input from the industry, we need input from other interested parties. I don't think it's an appropriate amendment for Select File. I would oppose the Beutler amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Chairman, I guess I oppose, or I guess I support Senator Beutler's amendment for a different reason. The other day when this bill went through on consent calendar, frankly speaking it, I guess, caught me sleeping at the chair. As I noticed it coming through it was about the time that the vote was being taken. I visited with Senator Smith about this and having not served on the committee, was not sure exactly what the reasons were and were not. My basis are not only supporting Senator Beutler's but why in the world are we cutting down minimum fines? A fine of only \$100 a day or \$50 a day, let's take it \$50 a day for liquor establishment fines. What incentive is it for them not to continue to sell liquor to people that are intoxicated, many in the areas that they do lose