

March 14, 1984

LB 941

Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I have some lights on. Do you wish to speak to the committee amendments? Senator Jacobson? Senator Kahle, the amendment or the bill?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, I'm sure a lot of the discussion that I could be making will come out in the bill. I was rather disappointed of course that we didn't get the bill out of committee with a little bit different figure than that. We had asked for 30 cents which would have brought in between a little over \$6 million. The bill as it now stands will bring in about \$2.1 million, as I understand it. But I do know that the committee members that were appointed, as Senator Carsten mentioned, worked hard to try to get a compromise. I am personally not going to try to change that amount as the bill progresses, if it progresses, hopefully. So I support the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support the committee amendments. I, too, had hoped that maybe it would be a little more than this but I think the 30 cents per gallon was a little too high. I had a lot of retailers call me from my district and say, here you have raised the drinking age to 21 so we are going to lose a little business there and now you want to raise the tax on liquor and beer. Do you want to drive us out of business? And of course my answer was no, we don't want to. We kind of want to reach a compromise and so what this amendment would do is raise the tax on beer from 14 to 18 cents a gallon. The bill as originally proposed would raise an additional \$7 million. Now with this amendment it will raise a little over \$2 million and I just think that rather than go for nothing, \$2 million is a little better than nothing. So I would urge you to support the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President.