

March 29, 1985

LB 280A

CLERK: Yes, sir. Mr. President, LB 280A offered by Senators Nelson, Sieck, Vard Johnson, Lundy and Pirsch. (Read title.)

SENATOR BEUTLER: Who is handling the matter, Mr. Clerk? Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, I move for the advancement of LB 280A.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to rise to add a comment that I would have liked to have made during the discussion that went on. I would like to support my friend, Senator Nelson, and I am going to be really upfront about my support for Senator Nelson on this A bill and on the bill itself in the fact that she mentioned quite upfront I thought too about the fact that this was a bill for generation of revenues and I see a real need for this in the fact that we have increasing costs and we are having continuing cuts. The medical detox unit at Hastings which has served, by my records and from information that I received from July 1st of 1983 to June 30th of 1984, 202 patients served from 41 counties in Nebraska, has been cut because it costs or saves, I should say, the state \$183,000. And I would like to submit that if, in fact, this A bill is going to address a concern of DPIs and reinstate some funds to them, I would certainly like to have this detox unit put on the top of the list to be included back again in that budget. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, I would rise in support of the A bill. Senator Nelson and I have talked about the needs in our mental health and alcoholism programs in this state and as Chairman of the Public Health Committee I have dealt with that issue for seven years. She evenly splits the amount of money that goes to both programs. Both programs have similar budget totals, about \$5 million each. In both cases they have had little or no increase whatsoever in the past three years because of the tight budgets and yet the needs in both areas have grown dramatically. There is a bill, LB 685, which is in committee right now introduced by Senator DeCamp which