

together, force them to come together because this is extremely an important piece of legislation. As a result of that, I am going to vote with Senator Carpenter to revive this bill. Our hope is that this body will get energetic and enthusiastic about doing something about this severe problem. I am very happy to hear the support that evidently there is for this bill and I hope that you will support Senator Carpenter on bringing it on this floor and then supporting it through, no matter what the opposition is by all the parties that are to be for it. Let's get something passed.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp? And then Senator Moylan?

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Of course when we talk about LB127 we are talking about at least three or four different versions, so if it is the understanding and willingness of this body to get behind one form then I am happy to work with you, because as I say I have got more hours on this than everything else that I have got in this body. However, recognize ahead of time now that you have shown some enthusiasm to raise the bill, that you are talking about quite a chunk of money and you are talking about at least one new concept that you are going to take a lot of heat over. And so be ready to stay and supporting the bill and the concepts when the heat comes, and that big concept that you are talking about is the decriminalization of intoxication. In other words, drunkenness would no longer be a crime. Now we have, in the committee, and ever since the introduction of this bill the first time, there has been literally violent opposition to this concept. We have offered testimony on the bill to show that for example in the city of Washington, D.C. alone that there were seven drunks that over a period of their criminal record time had cost the city of Washington, \$771,000 just taking them to jail and locking them up and letting them go the next week or after ten days for public intoxication. So this is going to be one of the things that this bill deals with, and it is a very significant thing, and so as I say, let me conclude I am not against raising the bill, but be ready to support it all the way and understand what it says and somebody take the time to read it because it has got a lot of dynamite in it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moylan and then Whitney?

SENATOR MOYLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I have listened to this discussion on this bill for some time and I think that the purpose of the bill is very admirable, I will think that we certainly need to do something in this line. However, I have talked to many psychologists and many people versed in this question of alcoholism. Alcoholism in itself is not the problem really. There is a mental problem back of it that leads to it and by the way we have a good bill held in committee which would help in this line very much if it would be passed out in the form that it was presented to the committee this year. But there is a mental problem behind every practically all. I would say 80 or 90% of the alcohol problem, there is a mental problem that is back of it and they have used alcohol as an escape. And I will venture to say that 90% of the alcoholic problems have a mental problem back of it, and you have to get at that problem before you can cure the alcoholism. So I am in favor of this bill which way it would go whether it would be beneficial or not but I believe that at least it is an attack on the problem, but I would still say that there is another bill held in committee that will do more in the future, if it is implemented, to cure this alcoholism problem and any bill that we will pass here because you can not legislate morals, however, you can counsel on mental problems that lead to alcohol as an escape, so I am in favor of raising the bill at this time.

(end belt #5)