

February 11, 1974

SENATOR DECAMP: Just an informational point that has been raised in my original bill and in its various amended forms, I have always kept in the provision for funding by a tax on alcohol and that would have raised all of the money required and because I put that provision in, I did not get the support of those who are very influential in the area of alcohol lobbying and that is what killed the bill I think the first year.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richendifer?

SENATOR RICHENDIFER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have objected to this bill from its inception, due to primarily one section in the bill. I think that it should be pointed out that last year there were 16,000 drunk arrests, 2,000 repeaters and 250 that they claimed that were incurable. Now between the counties, the department of institutions, not counting our funded like the Island of Hope, that is funded by private money. We are spending over five million dollars on 250 or 300 people. My main objection to the bill is in section 9, subsection 2 and this deals with the arrest of the drunk individual. I think what we are doing is giving our police officers an opportunity to look the other way and leave man to lie in the gutter, and we shouldn't be doing this. It has no provisions, if there is no facility, if the people at home don't want him, what does a police officer do with him? I think most of them would like to have the option of either arresting him or turning him loose, put him in protective custody over night but this bill doesn't do this. What does he do with him? And this has been my objections, Senator Carpenter has said all year, now we will correct this, we will get something in here but the bill was the same in this section as it was before. And until this is taken care of, I have to object to this.

PRESIDENT: Now are you all through debating the motion? Alright, then Senator Carpenter may close on his motion to place 127 on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee. Senator Carpenter is now closing.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I will be very brief. We are not writing a bill now. I don't care what form the bill comes out here, in mature judgement of 25 members of the body to write in the bill whatever you want. Now there is one thing that we haven't discussed and I will quit. It is the known fact today that kids of 12 years and above are now becoming alcoholics. Twelve years old and above are now becoming alcoholics. I don't know what the number is insofar as percentages are concerned but I do know by people ought to know that this is taking place. I do know that a lot of young people are going from marijuana and things of a like nature into alcohol. I know that from the experience that I have had through the observation of the people who do it. And they are taking these wines for example and other things and mix with Anacin and aspirin and everything else in order to get a kick out of it, and a kick they are getting. But what are we going to do about that, are we going to let it lay, are we going to let it go, are we going to complain. This bill does mean nothing except to get a bill out here and 25 we will attempt to write a bill without any cost to the taxpayers by taxation to see if we can't approve the situation. I would agree with Senator Richendifer, I am not in favor of arresting these people, I am in favor of limiting the program to begin with those who want to be helped, there is a place for them to go to be helped, that is all I am trying to do, and I hope that is all that you are trying to do.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to place LB127 on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee, all those in favor of that motion will vote aye, all those opposed will vote no. Once again, the Chair would inquire have you all voted? Clerk