

May 15, 1979

LB 260

or whether we simply want to lock individuals up for being intoxicated. But I would say that it is too late in this session to repeal decriminalization. There is a bill on General File to do that, but it is too late in this session to process that particular piece of legislation. Again, I think we have demonstrated in previous stages of debate that the money is necessary and that it is a justifiable expenditure. Now LB 260 which Senator Murphy has a motion to kill is not one which appropriates funds. This bill simply increases the tax on alcohol. The LB 260A is the one which appropriates the money and I think as a result of Senator Murphy's comments would have been more proper for him to place a kill motion on that bill. Now I would like to speak briefly about Dr. Ford's letter. I think his choice of words was probably less than desirable, but read the sentence in front of what Senator Murphy deemed a threat. Based upon this review it seems that Region 4 subcontractors are simply not performing as required by the region's contract with the state. This is a serious situation that demands immediate attention. What Dr. Ford is saying is that if the subcontractors do not continue to meet the terms of their contracts then their contracts will not be renewed, and I do not think that that is an unusual statement or unusual comment. I would hope that the subcontractors for alcohol services would meet the requirements and the terms of their particular contracts and that services would be delivered as intended when the grants or the funding was initially established. Again, I think the need is there. I think if you believe that we should set up programs to see that people with serious alcohol problems are treated, then LB 260 is necessary, if you believe as I do that the funds for the treatment of people with alcohol problems should come not from the general tax...from the general taxes, the state sales and income tax but should come from the alcohol tax then I think you should vote against Senator Murphy's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 260, and you should vote for the advancement and the enactment of this very needed tax.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the kill motion on this motion. If you will recall a couple years ago Senator Merz had in LB 204 which put the cost of alcoholism where it ought to be. It took it away from the taxpayer and put it on the beer, wine and liquor industry where it ought to be. As Senator Cullan pointed out, LB 260 merely