

May 15, 1979

LB 260

leaves it where it is and 260A almost doubles the amount that the beer, wine and liquor industry are going to be paying for the correction of alcoholism. That's where it ought to be. Now to say that we don't need it, that we're deliberately spending more money is not the real reason for the attempted kill motion. After all when we set up this program we, this Legislature, faced the problem of alcoholism in Nebraska. Up until then I think we hoped that it would go away, but instead of going away it gradually becomes worse and worse, and we're not treating all of the people that should be treated. In my area we are using the hospital for a place for them to go dry out. Now if you think a hospital is a cheap place to take people like this, better think again. It would be much less expensive to have dependency units or detox centers, half-way houses, whatever you want to call them, such as they have in Lincoln. We have one in our area, which is no where near adequate. But I suggest that we go ahead and pass 260 and 260A to put the burden where it belongs on the beer, wine and liquor industry. I have no qualms about supporting LB 260 and 260A and I urge that you do not kill it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to thank Senator Murphy for sharing this letter with us. What this letter says is that the State of Nebraska is being a managerial tool and responsible. The last line in the letter which Senator Murphy shared with us says, "in effect in this case we must provide services ourselves if the providers do not measure up to their contract". Every business person knows that that is a wise warning to be issued if you are not receiving what your contract has said you would receive, and before the end of the fiscal year. It is a managerial tool to say you are not measuring up under our contract, therefore, be on notice that if you continue to not measure to the full word of your contract, your contract will not be renewed. We should be very proud of our division on alcoholism of the Department of Public Institutions that they are a managerial group, that Dr. Ford is watching our interests and we certainly should vote no on Senator Murphy's motion to indefinitely postpone.

PRESIDENT: Before we call upon the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce from Senator Warner's district twenty-two 6th grade students from Malcolm School, Mrs. Ann Norman is the teacher. They're up in the south balcony.