

May 15, 1979

LB 260

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Mr. Speaker, of course I don't believe in the detoxification program from the start. When a man is drunk he's a criminal. He should be put away until he's sobered up and turned out on the street, and after that if he wants to come in and be detoxified or if he wants to go to Alcohol Anonymous that's his business. He should go and straighten himself out. I don't think the public is going to be able to do it. But what I'd like to ask Senator Nichol. That's my opinion on that. Senator Nichol or Senator Cullan, if either one of them will come back to their mike.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan, do you wish to respond?

SENATOR KEYES: As I listened to you two senators talk I got the impression that there is a difference about LB 260. One of you says it's the tax money and it goes to the detoxification, and the other said it goes to general fund. Now does it go to the general fund?

SENATOR CULLAN: In LB 260 it goes to the general fund. In LB 260A an amount equivalent to the first year's income would be appropriated to alcohol treatment programs.

SENATOR KEYES: Well then I'll advise you folks to vote for 260, and vote against 260A. Just get that money in the general fund and we'll take care of them when they come to their place, but for the detoxification program I'd certainly say, kill 260A.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members of the body, we're spending an awful lot of time on this. The only reason I'm getting up, I worked with this program in my local area before I came down here for a number of years, and one of the things I promised before I left out there was that we were going to put a higher tax on alcohol beverages in order to take care of the great amount of problems that we had. Senator Merz has mentioned the traffic problems. That's just a real small part of it, very small part. If you would study the problems that our social workers have within our welfare program and otherwise, you would find that alcohol has the biggest affect on the problems of anything that we possibly could think of. Usually...usually when a family is having some sort of problems, either financially or otherwise, alcohol