

January 11, 1980

LB 259

introduced the bill. I think that should be the first motion up. There is no need to adopt the amendments if we are successful with the kill motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you have the motion on the desk?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, then I move to withdraw those amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your motion is to indefinitely postpone LB 259.

SENATOR WESELY: Is that proper at this time or do I have to move to withdraw the amendments?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, if it is okay to proceed, Mr. Speaker, I will explain the background on this bill for everyone's information. The bill was brought to us by Senator Cullan along with another bill LB 260. LB 260 essentially raised the tax on alcohol to raise funds to provide better services for alcoholism treatment programs in Nebraska. LB 259, which is before you at the present time, related to the problem that 260 addressed in that we presently have a decriminalization of alcoholism, that is, intoxication that took effect several years ago in Nebraska but we didn't have the services in place to deal with that act. As a result, there was some problems that resulted and the feeling was that perhaps delaying decriminalization of intoxication would be appropriate if we didn't have the proper services needed to deal with the problem. Well, LB 260, which we passed last year, meets that problem, meets that need, increases the funding and has now provided the services. We are talking about \$541,000 this fiscal year and they anticipate about \$811,000 in the next fiscal year in additional funds to help provide the services we found to be necessary in the Public Health and Welfare Committee to meet the problems of alcoholism in this state. So Senator Cullan, myself and a number of other Senators have discussed this matter and believe the best action to take at this time is to kill LB 259. It was there only to pass if 260 did not advance and become law. It was there only if the services we needed to deal with our alcoholism problems in Nebraska were not adequately funded and instituted. That problem has been taken care of. There is no need to pass LB 259 and I speak for Senator Cullan as well as myself when I ask you to please kill LB 259. I would be happy to answer any questions you have and ask that we