

January 11, 1980

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perhaps not in Anselmo but perhaps some other place nearby. I don't know exactly but it should be available.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb, did you wish to speak again?

SENATOR LAMB: I would just like to discuss with Senator Nicol. What do you do, what do you do out in Theford, Nebraska, where it is a hundred miles from Alliance or any other town of any size, and you don't have a jail, you don't even have a jail? What are you going to do, you can't deal with these people? The people are finding themselves frustrated in that they don't know what to do because the distances are so great. You can't have a halfway house in those little towns. It just isn't practical and so I would like to have you explain how this is supposed to be dealt with in a sparsely settled area.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Lamb, it does create a problem that is unique and certainly different than those in the metropolitan areas or even those of us who are located near cities that are a little bit larger that do provide such services. Now first of all, what we have been doing in the past prior to any of these bills was that we were arresting people for intoxication and putting them in jail. We were fining them if they had any money, and they usually didn't have any money, so we were putting them in jail for a few days and turning them loose to do the same thing again. It has been the feeling of those who know that something else should be done and this is what we are attempting to do is to provide services whereby they can get consultation that will help them in being an alcoholic. Now let me say, first of all, that everybody that is drunk in public is not an alcoholic and some of the opposition by police officers has been how do we know when we accost a person that is drunk in public whether or not he or she is an alcoholic and this is a decision that cannot be made on the spot, but at least they can take them into custody. And then the second objection from the police officers rose, we are putting our neck on the chopping block if we take them into custody without filing a charge against them. Not so. They were provided immunity in the bill last year, as I recall it was 593, whereby they could do it. Any time any police officers accost somebody or takes them into custody, they are putting their neck on the block. Now in answer to your question as to what do you do in remote areas. You may be affiliated or attempt to get affiliated with a city or

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