

January 11, 1980

LB 259

town of a somewhat larger nature that has personnel that can help you. I assume somewhere near or maybe not very near in your case there would be some mental health center of some kind or at least a hospital that has some help along this line. I really don't know your area well enough and I think you will probably be about as far from professional help as any area in the state so I do empathize with you and I know you do have a problem and it isn't going to come quickly but I think we should give it a little time to work.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Nichol.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Powers, your light was still on. Do you wish to talk again? Okay. Senator Wesely, do you wish to close on your motion to kill?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank Senator Nichol for his remarks and he really has been a leader in this Legislature and in the state in taking the steps we need to to decriminalize intoxication. I think that he should be commended for his leadership in this area in particular. I think Senator Lamb has some legitimate concerns. They were concerns shared by Senator Cullan. The feeling was that the step taken with LB 260 which passed last year, the increase in alcohol tax increasing the funding for the services that we need will be the step that we need to take that will deal with that problem and those services and the funding has not all fallen into place and certainly hopefully we will be able to meet the problems raised by Senator Lamb. But LB 259 is not the solution to the problems raised in that way. LB 259 is not the solution to any of the problems raised in this area. We have already had legislation, LB 376, passed last year that dealt with the problem of the intoxicated on our streets and out in public. That bill has not really had a chance to work as yet, but where it has been in place it has been effective if properly enforced. It has worked. It dealt with the specific problems involved there and that is the solution to that problem. The question of funding was dealt with in LB 260 and now we are left with this mutant LB 259 which was there only if the others failed, and they didn't, to pick up the slack and that is to delay decriminalization. There is no need for that now. The steps were taken last year. The positive steps were taken last year. There is no need for LB 259. It ought to be killed and we should get on with the business at hand. This is not an important bill, it is a bad bill. I urge your support for the kill motion.

5855