

presently am involved in a hassle with the Region II alcoholism program pertaining to a halfway house in North Platte. I am somewhat familiar with the amount of money that the alcohol people, be it state or federal have at their disposal for these projects. In some cases they are falling all over each other looking for ways to spend the money. In some cases they are falling over each other looking for places to open up halfway houses. I would have to say that sentiment in some cases has caused us to vote to give them money to help alcoholics. However, by the same token they are not using this money in the way they should because the right kind of help isn't being given. They have so much money they are creating new departments, they are creating new staff, they are creating new programs and they are not getting right down to the basic issue of helping the alcoholic. We do have a program in the schools, I am familiar with it as my wife being a school nurse has put one on in our school so this will not hurt and it is not directed at the school program. I would like to have you take that into consideration. I would like to ask you to support Senator Murphy's amendment. Let them have a year with curtailed funds and I'll bet you that the program still goes on and the whole thing isn't going to collapse. Let's have them come up with a more concrete program. Let's have them show more proof and be more responsible. So I ask that you support Senator Murphy and his amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: I'm going to call the question.

SENATOR CLARK: Thank you. I'll call it myself. Senator Murphy, do you care to close?

SENATOR MURPHY: Yes, I would and I would address myself to Senator Kahle's remarks and I'm sure that he is every bit as sincere as I am in this matter. But picture me as a parent, tell me that the school can not work with me, a parent, when the school has no program. We are spending this money simply because it came in as taxes. We levy a tax, we have got the money, we have got to do something with it, so give it to them. Don't make them perform. Don't make them serve the people that are troubled, that have this problem. I would add just one more thing. The second largest agency in this state I believe is the Council on Alcoholism that Mr. Fox heads. He testified at this hearing. He does not have a program designed to work with our young children and he and Mr. Ford make no direct effort to coordinate the money that they are spending. He goes his way and spends, Mr. Ford goes his way and spends and the tax payers