

May 12, 1981

LB 129

like to announce there is 25 students from Conquerors Christian Academy from Lincoln. They are in the south balcony. The teacher is Mrs. Wasmundt. They're from Senator Landis' District. Where are you, please? Welcome to the Legislature. Record the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Nichol's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The amendment is adopted. Senator Cullan, on the bill.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think most of you are familiar with the contents of this bill and the reason behind it. As you can see, the amendment which we just adopted will raise...we have compromised with those who represent the liquor and wine and beer industries so that we will raise \$1.7 million instead of the 2 point, I believe 3 million dollars that we were going to raise previously. These funds, we will introduce an A bill later to determine how these funds should be expended. Whether or not you agree with the proposal for expending these funds, I think it is prudent for us to raise these taxes. As Senator Nichol and I have told you on previous occasions, we do believe that these funds should be spent for alcohol treatment and alcohol education. Approximately \$600,000 of federal funds will be lost in the very near future and we would believe that these funds should be replaced to continue alcohol treatment programs in Omaha, in Gordon and other locations throughout the State of Nebraska, and then we would propose consistent with the plan that we distributed to you earlier that alcohol treatment facilities, particularly detoxification centers, be expanded at various locations throughout the State of Nebraska. Also we believe that some of this money should be used for educational programs to discourage people from drinking, from drinking and driving and other things. The philosophy of the State of Nebraska and the philosophy behind decriminalization of intoxication was that we should not punish people with drinking problems, that rather we should ensure that these individuals are treated. Well, the State of Nebraska went half way with that philosophy. We said that we are not going to punish people with drinking problems and then we stopped. We didn't continue to do anything or to address the problem of what we were going to do with those individuals that we no longer incarcerate. So the problem is in many parts of the State of Nebraska that these individuals are not picked up, these individuals are not taken to treatment facilities because in many parts of the State of Nebraska the treatment facilities