

increase are very modest and we know that. In fact, you know, you stop and think about the number of times that we have increased taxes. It is not very often that we do that or expand tax base. So what we have done is we have worked out a deal. Now Senator Beutler says he could have done better and maybe so. I don't know that. But again the offer is standing if this Legislature wants to try to do better, it is free to do that. It is not bound by my commitment or that of the Revenue Committee, nor will it ever be bound by my commitment nor that of the Revenue Committee, but we did what we thought was just and right and appropriate under the circumstances.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Nelson, would you yield to a question because I am getting a little confused here.

SENATOR NELSON: Certainly.

SENATOR HIGGINS: The gist of what I have been getting is the alcohol tax is to help the alcoholic and detoxification programs. Am I correct?

SENATOR NELSON: A lot more than that, probably forty or fifty agencies. I can go right down the line, but primarily it is education, mental health...are you familiar with the region programs? I think we have five regions in the state and my particular region is Region...

SENATOR HIGGINS: Right.

SENATOR NELSON: ...3, but...

SENATOR HIGGINS: The debate on the floor has been mostly alcoholism.

SENATOR NELSON: Alcohol and drug abuse programs, right.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Drug programs. In the Omaha World Herald and you may have been misquoted, Senator, they stated...and this was January 19th, things could have changed since then, but they said, "Mrs. Nelson said nothing in the bill would require the money raised by the new tax to be spent on alcohol and drug treatment programs, but 'my hope is that a