

March 29, 1985

LB 280A

would have appropriated \$1 million solely for the mental health services and an increase in funding for those that we are holding in committee and pending the approval of LB 280 and 280A we feel that this expansion of services is woefully needed and justified and we find that this will not even come close to covering the needs that we have identified through our research for both alcoholism and mental health. So I would strongly support the advancement of LB 280A.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to be very brief and just tell you I am going to vote no. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I do want to let the body understand that LB 280 is...or 280A is an appropriation bill wherein monies will be specifically appropriated to certain programs that deal with alcoholism and the like. The total cost of LB 280A is \$1.9 million. I think it should be...what the proponents of LB 280 have done is that they have handled, I think, the beer tax issue very well. The beer tax is not an earmarked tax that is going to go into the general fund. But by the same token, they believe, and rightfully so, that we need to make certain there is additional monies available to the state's alcoholism programs and so the A bill would target some additional monies from the beer...not from the beer tax, just some additional monies from the general fund to the alcoholism programs. And I think that the floor needs to understand that 280A is an appropriation bill for alcoholism programs.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The question has been called. It won't be necessary. There are no other lights on. Senator Nelson, do you care to close?

SENATOR NELSON: I believe not. There are a lot of these programs that are developed through the state. And I might just add I have in front of me a letter from Ron Jensen.