

March 30, 1979

LB 260

give in to the wickedness of alcohol. The fact is that many people do, and once they're in that vulnerable sick condition, my entire attitude changes and I think their will has been compromised and they're no longer able completely to resist it. Senator Venditte and I are lucky. We are not alcoholics. I, as far as I know, perhaps if I took a drink I'd find out I am one, but nevertheless we don't have that problem. So we're able to look from an advantageous position at those whose feet are about to slip and we can throw them either a life raft to save them, or an anchor to sink them to the bottom. I'm going to vote against your anchor motion, Senator Murphy.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the Murphy motion to indefinitely postpone LB 260. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Somebody is not listening. Senator DeCamp makes a very fine speech about terminating his program when it has hardly had a chance to start. There is nothing in this kill motion that will in any way, shape or form affect our present program on alcoholism. Nothing will be changed under 204. Nothing unfortunately will be changed under all of the other affiliated programs that are running parallel or in opposite directions from 204. All I am saying is that before we proceed any further under the guise of alcoholism and correcting it, that we stop and find out what, in fact, we are doing. The people of this state are trying to help the alcoholic. We are trying to do it through a series of government agencies and therein no doubt lies most of the fault in the program, because there is no coordination among those several agencies, as to who will serve whom and in what fashion. Now the fact of the additional tax in this measure is unfortunate, because this tax is not a dedicated tax. It is simply an additional tax that industry is paying you 12 to 14 million now, and you can appropriate as much or as little of that as you wish to the program that exists. But I'm saying before we proceed to tell these people that we are going to raise another million dollars for this purpose that we try and define what that purpose is and how it's being served. I have nothing further to offer on the matter. I think we owe it to the people of this state now more than ever before to look with some kind of understanding before we increase their tax burden. I realize we're only taking totally about 50 cents out of every dollar that's being made. I realize that Nebraska...these flow through funds that are coming back for alcoholism, I realize we're only paying anywhere from a dollar and a quarter to a dollar and forty cents for each of those dollars that