

March 30, 1979

LB 260

SENATOR KAHLE: Well I think this is real important, and we talk about throwing money around, and Senator Murphy is correct, and I've been a little bit concerned about these programs for a number of years, but we have community people involved in the Executive Boards of these regions, and we also have the consumer part of it, where they meet and make recommendations. I really don't know how you can get more grass roots input than through the regional part. I know we've had our problems. I know they haven't been as efficient as they could be, but I believe that's the approach we should take, because there is a difference in the way we can treat alcoholics, for instance, in south central Nebraska than there is in Omaha or Lincoln, because the facilities are going to have to be strung out more. We're going to have more problems with transportation in getting to the areas. I can't see that getting any better turning it over to the state or to some other agency. But I would be the first to agree that I think we need to tighten up. I also agree that we need more money from the alcoholic industry to help with this program. I think it's an extremely important part of our society today...is going to be to get help for those at least that want it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR KAHLE: So I certainly agree with the concept of putting the tax on and making it high enough so that there is money available. I'm also concerned about using it correctly, and I hope that the Health and Welfare Committee and all of us can watch closely to see that it is used for what it was intended for, and that these regional boards...we let them know we're watching over their shoulder to see what they do. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you wish to talk on the bill? I originally announced Senator Schmit and Senator Venditte. There is a motion up here on the bill, but we'll wait until those two talk and then we'll take the motion. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I congratulate again Senator Cullan for what he is trying to do under this bill, but I would have to join Senator Murphy in some of the criticisms he has expressed relative to the way funds have been expended in the past. The plain facts of life are that there are more people living off of the money we have appropriated for alcoholism treatments than are being cured by them. We have here this