

March 30, 1979

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get the job done, and if it isn't being done right in your community jump on them and get it done right. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, do you wish to speak? On the kill motion.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, just briefly, as far as I'm concerned too, I rise to oppose the kill motion on this bill. We started down a new road as Senator DeCamp stated a minute ago, but we didn't start down that road without some experience. There were two programs in the state, and Lincoln, Nebraska, Scottsbluff, there were...I'll call them pilot programs for lack of a better word, and they have enjoyed success...great success...one of them in particular I can think of, over fifty percent success. This is fantastic when you're dealing with alcoholism, I understand. Do we want to go back? Let's go back four years. Put it all back on taxation. Do away with the programs that are in gear now, and go back to taking alcoholics to jail. What for? So that they can become detoxified somewhat...turn them back out because they usually don't have money to pay the fine anyway, and what for? To be arrested again in a day or two. This is a cycle that we've been going through for ever since alcoholism started in this country. Do we want to go back to that? I don't think so. It costs, I understand, \$900,000 loss of wages in the Panhandle alone in one year. Is this what we want to continue with? I don't think so. I think we should not kill this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope, do you wish to be recognized again? Senator Kelly, do you wish to be recognized on the kill motion?

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Murphy is making a point of accountability, and I think it's an excellent point to be made. Of the programs and government services that we put out around here in my seven years down here, alcohol has been in every session of the Legislature with both feet. It's a serious problem and we're addressing it many different ways in this session of the Legislature. But because it's a compassionate issue, because it's a big ticket issue, because we're taxing alcoholic beverages to get the money, there is no reason to not worry about the accountability. It is still a government program. It's got all of the ability to be abused like any other government program, and I applaud Senator Murphy for bringing this accountability