

May 15, 1979

LB 260

is involved. If there is something wrong with our detox program and with our alcohol program, that's where to work on it, not on the funding end of it. We need all the money we can possibly get. If it isn't used correctly that's our fault because we have people out in these communities that are working with this. The local committees and citizens committees that are working with this are the ones that should be collared if you don't think the program is working right in your area. But I certainly support any amount of money that we can eject from the sale of alcohol to take care of the treatment of alcoholics, and if we don't improve on our treatment of alcoholics, we're going to be in real trouble because there's more of us all the time, and I'll tell you what, if we don't learn how to handle it...what I'm talking about when I say more of us, and I say, of us, is because of the fact that younger people are...all the time are having access to alcohol and they're becoming alcoholics perhaps at sixteen...seventeen years of age. If we can't help these people, we've lost them to society for the rest of their life. So I certainly support not killing the bill and carrying this on, and if there is something wrong with our programs out in western Nebraska as Senator Haberman mentioned yesterday, maybe we can get something for western Nebraska today. I think we're the ones that probably need the program the worst, because I'm sure that there are facilities here in Lincoln, and there are in Omaha, and probably in Scottsbluff and a few other places, but in central Nebraska especially we're lacking. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: The question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease on LB 260 and Senator Murphy's motion to return? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases, and Senator Murphy you may close on your motion.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well, very briefly, my concern is for the taxpayer of this state who once more is being taxed for a program that, as Senator Merz says, the Department