

April 1, 1981

LB 129

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I move for the adoption of the committee amendments since they are the bill. As soon as you adopt the committee amendments, I will ask Senator Cullan to explain the amendments which is the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I will ask for the adoption of the committee amendments, then Senator Cullan will explain (interruption).

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 129. The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan. Do you want to explain the amendments.

SENATOR CULLAN: All the committee amendments do is increase the tax on liquor, beer and wine. I guess I would have to open it up here to find out exactly what that is. I know it increases the tax on beer by three cents per gallon. I will have to check to tell you what the other increases are. It increases the tax on beer from twelve to fifteen cents per gallon, on light wines from fifty-five to sixty-five cents per gallon, on fortified wines from a dollar ten to a dollar twenty-five cents per gallon, and on hard liquor from two dollars and fifty cents per gallon to two dollars and seventy-five cents per gallon. I am not exactly sure what those percentage increases are. I think many of them we tried to get approximately in the ten percent range. I would urge for the adoption of the amendments. The amendments do delete all provisions from the bill dealing with public intoxication and so we leave the current status of the intoxication in the State of Nebraska as not being a crime, and with these amendments that will not affect that particular statute of Nebraska now. So I guess I would ask you to adopt the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to ask that this bill be referred back to the reference committee. According to the committee statement, LB 129 as originally drafted would reestablish public intoxication as a criminal offense in the State of Nebraska. Then the explanation of the amendments by the committee says, "The committee considered amendments offered by the introducer, Senator Cullan, which struck all original provisions of the bill and inserted sections increasing liquor taxes. After discussion, the amendments were adopted. The committee amendments become the bill." The committee amendment was actually the introducer's amendment. This bill was advertised to the public that it was a