

April 1, 1981

LB 129

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't have it in my book. I just wanted to be clear, thank you.

CLERK: Okay, they were.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion by Senator Higgins is to refer the bill back to the...

CLERK: Reference Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: ...Reference Committee, is that correct?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any further discussion? You have a minute left.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I would just like to remind the body that the reason we hold public hearings in the State of Nebraska is to give notice to the people of what we are doing to them or for them, and in this case, we were going to raise the tax on alcohol without letting anybody know about it and without any public hearing and we did it under the sham of saying we are going to criminalize public drunkenness. Had this really been a committee amendment, I probably wouldn't feel this way but this amendment was introduced by the introducer of the bill. So it was never his intent to criminalize public drunkenness but, merely, to tax alcohol without having the public receive due notice and this is why I ask that it be referred back to the proper committee for a public hearing. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: I would assume, Mr. President, that we either accept or reject the committee amendment and then make a decision to send it back to committee for a hearing. My question is, if the committee amendment is not adopted by the body, then there is no need to have a hearing I would assume.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins, would you respond to Senator Warner.

SENATOR HIGGINS: My only response is, I don't know what you call a committee amendment, I call a committee amendment an amendment that the committee decides on. But this sheet out of the Journal itself says that this was an amendment that the original introducer proposed after he asked that his original bill be gutted. So it is not really a committee amendment. It is the introducer's