

going to be closed unless we do something and there is a need, in my opinion, and in the opinion of those of us who are familiar with the alcohol issue, that we need additional alcohol treatment facilities in the state and that much of the need for those facilities is a direct result of decriminalizing public intoxication. Now we can ignore the pro

if we want to or we can take the funds from the general fund if we want to, but it is my feeling and it is my strong feeling that we need to meet the problem head on and that we should take those funds from alcohol tax and not from many of the people in the State of Nebraska who do not use alcohol. Now these amendments appropriate the money to the general fund and then the A bill would appropriate most of that money to alcohol treatment programs. I think this is a very important bill. I think the charge that I did not intend to reinstate public intoxication as a crime is simply ridiculous. I have never supported decriminalizing public intoxication, and if I thought I could get the votes to keep it, I would do it now but I know I can't. So I am going to do the next or try to do the next best thing, to insure that in the Chadrons and the Gordons and the Rushvilles, and, yes, in Omaha, we don't leave people laying in the street, that we insure that those individuals with alcohol problems do get some treatment and that they are not just ignored and left on the street to do whatever they want to do. I guess...I guess that is all I have to say. I hope you adopt the amendment and then I hope you reject Senator Higgins' attempt to who knows do what.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President...Mr. President, what motion are we talking to now. Is this to adopt the committee amendments?

SPEAKER MARVEL: This is the motion to adopt the committee amendments.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, I would like to talk to that just a little bit and I don't know why Senator Cullan has his feathers so ruffled. I don't see any reason to get up-tight. The original bill was to reestablish public intoxication as a criminal offense in the State of Nebraska. Now the committee has offered amendments that does not address this. It addresses raising the liquor and beer and wine taxes and maybe I should get a little ruffled here because I think that this bill should go back to the Revenue Committee. Senator Cullan, what is the purpose of the Revenue Committee? The purpose of the Revenue Committee is to analyze the taxes that we have in the State of Nebraska and that is what we do on these liquor