

hope you will at least adopt the committee amendments and then we can deal with that issue by itself. All of us have looked at bills before that dealt with raising the taxes on liquor so it is not new and there have been hearings in the past. So I am in favor of the adoption of the committee amendments. I am a member of the Judiciary Committee. I agreed with it there. I agree with it now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this is nothing new. This has been heard many times about securing money for detox centers and what was the big hubbub about when we had the hearing on this bill and on Senator Higgins' bill? Well, I will tell you what it was. The City of Omaha didn't know what to do. They couldn't arrest people. They couldn't pick them up. They couldn't take them to jail. They couldn't do anything. The county sheriff...no, excuse me, the Chief of Police was down here from Omaha. What will we do? He was frantic. No money. No detox centers. They won't take them at the hospital. They won't take them in this situation or that situation. We can't do anything, he said. His officers were down here. His legal counsel was here. Couldn't do a darn thing. That is why Senator Higgins had another portion of her bill that we took out but we need money, he said, we don't have any money to do anything. So we said we will raise some money for you. Senator Cullan had a very good bill here so, Senator Higgins, we are from the government. We are here to help you. Have you heard that before? Now since Omaha can't obviously handle their affairs, as has been proven in the last two or three days here, it looks like this Legislature will have to take care of this one, too. So that is why we are suggesting this. It doesn't make a bit of difference to me. We have a detox center where I live. We have a place that will take them, have a mental health center, not hurting too bad, but Omaha is the one that is in trouble. Well, here is a place to take a hold. Be sensible about it. I don't care if you want to refer it back to committee. We will have a hearing. But I think maybe if we do we ought to raise that a little bit on the beer. Actually we have the goodwill of the hard liquor and the wine industry, I understand, but we don't have the goodwill of the beer industry yet. Maybe we could raise that another nickel while we are at it. So maybe it ought to go back to a hearing. I would suggest, I think it would probably go back to Judiciary, we could solve a problem that has to do with that field more so than the revenue but I do urge you to adopt the committee amendments because there is no chance of going back to the bill in its original state.