

April 1, 1981

LB 129

for such treatment. Now two minutes ago he told you he wants to tax alcohol because he wants to do something for these treatment centers. Then he went on and in the World Herald they said or Senator Cullan said, "But I do believe the experiment that we have begun with public intoxication has not worked, he said." And to my knowledge Senator Sam Cullan has not asked the World Herald to retract his statements that day when he said the treatments we have for public intoxication have not worked and that is why he was there, he said, with his bill to criminalize public drunkenness. And that is why I am making the motion today that since this was, I still say, a sham, a trick, because it was Cullan's motion that said take everything out to do with public drunkenness and my amendment doesn't do anything but say let's tax alcohol. So you be the judge, Senators. What was his intent? He just told you he wants to help the alcoholics. So did Senator Nichol. But he told the World Herald that he knew these alcoholic treatment centers weren't working. That is right here...anybody wants to read it. So I am asking in fairness to the people of Nebraska that this bill be referred back to the Reference Committee in order that it be set for a public hearing and this time those who will really be affected by his bill will have a chance to hear it and to oppose it, and it looks kind of silly for LB 129, which he says is going to raise money for the treatment of alcoholism, when you look at the committee statement it says who are the opponents: The Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, Omaha Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, Chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism, the Nebraska Chapter of the National Society of Social Workers. So how could those people possibly be against the bill that Senator Cullan has said is going to do so much good for alcoholism. It just looks facetious and ridiculous for them to oppose a bill that he says is going to help them. I think, Senators, you owe it to the people of Nebraska to give them a fair and an honest hearing on this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, we are not here to argue the merits of what the committee amendment is at the present time, we are here to argue whether or not we are going to follow I think what is properly in order for this body, that when you are introducing a subject matter such as this that the industry, whoever it might be, have an opportunity at a public hearing to either defend or oppose. And so therefore I am going to support the motion to re-refer and have a public hearing in the interest of integrity and I think this body owes that to anyone and I remember