

May 7, 1981

LB 506

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will not take much time. I appreciate as always the questions and comments that any member of the Legislature would have about the bill. I do think that it is important that Nebraska does put some money in cancer research and help research related to smoking diseases. When Senator Lamb mentioned the billion dollar figure and of course it sounds like a lot of money, from 1981 to 1982 it is my understanding that that is about a 2% increase in actual funds and dollars spent on cancer research and of course the rate of inflation in those two years, both years I believe in excess of 12%. So you can actually see that the net effect of the ability, our purchasing power in the cancer research area has actually declined in that period of time but nonetheless it is a significant amount of money that this country does spend on cancer research. One of the reasons I think it is so important for the State of Nebraska to have that 1.2 million dollars to spend, to have available for competitive grants is that Nebraska does have some very unique problems as far as cancer is concerned. There is some counties in the State of Nebraska that have cancer incidence, for example, cancer of the pancreas or whatever it might be called, with incidence of that type of cancer several times in excess of the national average and yet we do not have the means or the ability to look at those problems which are unique to the State of Nebraska and find out what is killing Nebraskans. About thirty-five hundred people will die of cancer in the State of Nebraska in 1981 and I think it is important for us to focus on that and other smoking related diseases, to try and accomplish something constructive to save lives. So I urge you to support LB 506, the entire, as Senator Lamb put it, neat package and I hope that you will advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the advancement of LB 506. A machine vote has been requested. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to introduce Senator Beutler's mother and father, Dorothy and Jack Beutler, under the birth balcony. Would you stand and be recognized please. Welcome to the Legislature. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.