

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have a question of Senator Warner. Senator Warner, of course last year we increased the alcohol taxes in this area and we set a new rate on those taxes and additional funds from those taxes were for the support of alcohol programs. I know that there is a natural growth in the receipt of alcohol taxes from year to year just because of increased consumption. Could you tell me, Senator Warner, are those additional funds resulting from natural growth and increased alcohol consumption appropriated to alcohol treatment programs or are they in fact left in the rest of the General Fund?

SENATOR WARNER: You are talking now about LB 761 and the current level recommended by the committee, when we get to that bill will be no increase and as a . . . I do not recall specifically, there were increases in some of these programs in our earlier suggestions but as the receipts have declined everything is declined and I guess it would be my personal position that any aid money that we can even hold at last year's level may be a remarkable feat compared to what has occurred in many states where they have had to deplete their aid funds as well as their operational money because of declining revenues.

SENATOR CULLAN: Thank you Senator Warner. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to and will attempt to attain some information as to what has happened in the area of receipts from those alcohol taxes. It is my understanding that those revenues from those alcohol taxes increase every year. I don't have any problem with the philosophy of the Appropriations Committee that this alcohol program and all other ones ought to be funded from the same pot, but, if Senator Warner is going to delete the specific appropriation to the Indian reservation then I think it is incumbent on the Appropriations Committee to place additional funds, which are derived from additional alcohol tax revenues, which occur as the result of the natural growth in the consumption of alcohol into that alcohol treatment fund. My concern is that if we do not reject the committee amendment here and support Senator Goll that an alcohol program which is operating in one of your districts or perhaps in my district will be cut in order to fund the program which Senator Goll wants to continue. So, I would have to support Senator Goll until such time as the Appropriations Committee amends the other budget bill to account for increased alcohol funds to take care of this project. So at this time I would urge you to support Senator Goll in his effort.