April 5, 1982

LB 753

CLERK: Yes sir, there are. If I may right before that I have an Attorney General's opinion addressed to Senator Beutler. (See page 1617-19 of the Legislative Journal).

Senator DeCamp would like to print amendments to LB 799. Senator Hoagland would like to print amendments to LB 761.

Mr. Fresident, the next amendment I have to the bill is an amendment offered by Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, has that been printed in the Journal, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes sir it has, on page 1493.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would ask you to support this amendment. This amendment simply adds the following language to the current cigarette tax statutes in the state. It says, "beginning July 1, 1983 the equivalent of one cent of such tax, that being the cigarette tax, shall be used to fund and carry out the provisions of Section 81-637 to 81-640", that is all the new language. Now those sections that it refers too are the sections which we put in the statutes last year through LB 506, which is the cancer research program that we established. Now the cancer, as I understand it the cent on the cirarette tax raises about 1.7 million dollars. I also understand that Senator Warner is proposing to cut the funds last year that were designated for the cancer research funds after the Governor's well from \$400,000 to \$200,000. The net effect of that is that the one cent which this legislature enacted last year for the specific purpose of cancer research is now being spent as follows. \$700,000 for cancer research and a million dollars to the General Fund, that is what the Appropriations Committee or at least Senator Warner is suggesting. I understand the cash flow problems that we have now. In light of that, what I would propose is that next year, July 1, 1983, we designate that the full 1.7 million dollars be designated for the purposes of that one cent increase in the cigarette tax, namely cancer research. So that really is the jest of the amendment. I think it does what we tried to do with LB 506. I would urge you to support me, I guess I want this language in the statutes because I'm tired of fighting the same fight for the same funds in the regular session and the special sessions and then again in this session. So I would urge you to support placing the full one cent of what would now be an 18¢ cigarette tax