

we passed the legislation that prohibits the officers from picking up drunks and keeping them overnight in jail, I objected strenuously because I knew what would happen out in the rural, small town areas. There is just nothing to do with them and that has certainly been the problem and we had some legislation last year that tried to correct that and that is what the funding was appropriated for, I believe. I met with the South Central Mental Health Board a couple of weeks ago and this is one of their main concerns is that we are not as fortunate as, let's say, Lincoln and Omaha, especially Lincoln. I have been down to their detox center, not as an offender but as an observer, and I can see what a wonderful thing it would be to have some place to take these people when they are found inebriated on the street or wherever they might be but we do not have that kind of facilities generally in my area and they are wondering what in the world to do about it. Now I think it is absolutely wrong to put the tax on the alcohol that these people would consume along with some of the rest of us and then take it out of the program and use it for something else or defer it. So to my notion we need this money especially in outstate Nebraska to provide some sort of a system that we can handle our people who get a little too much alcohol and it is one of the biggest problems we have. It is the largest problem, it is the biggest problem we have with automobile accidents. It is not an adult problem alone. It is a teenager problem and I would certainly hope that we wouldn't fool with this program. I think we need to strengthen it. I am not against putting even more tax on alcohol if it is used for some meaningful thing. I hope we don't get into the rut that we are with cigarette tax where we just tax it so we have some money for other things. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and Senators, would Senator Nichol yield to a question?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Nichol, will Douglas County get any of this money for detoxification centers?

SENATOR NICHOL: I understand from the programs that are proposed around eighty some thousand.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay, thank you. I just want to point out that the Saint Gabriel's Detoxification Center closed a couple of months ago in Douglas County and our Omaha