

November 4, 1981

LB 8

PRESIDENT: Motion is the adoption of the Warner amendment to LB 8. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 42 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the Warner amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The amendment is adopted. Are there any further amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Cullan would move to amend the bill. (Read Cullan amendment found on page 74, Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment is one very similar to the amendment which the Legislature adopted a few minutes ago on Senator Nichol's request with respect to alcohol taxes. As you know, last year we established or increased cigarette taxes by a cent to fund the Epley Cancer Research Institute in Omaha and to spend \$800,000 additional or \$1.2 million of additional cigarette tax money for cancer research in the State of Nebraska. The Governor vetoed \$800,000 of that \$1.2 million. He indicated that that money could be used to cover other obligations that the state had last year. At that point in time he left \$400,000 in the cancer research fund and I did not object to his veto at that point in time and did not support a motion to override his veto at that point in time because I thought this was the first year of the program and that perhaps it would take some time to get the program initiated and we could operate with some reduced revenues in the short term. But the Legislature I think then intended that the one cent out of the fourteen cents that we assess on cigarette smokers in the State of Nebraska would be used for cancer research and eventually I hope that that full \$1.2 million is restored and I am willing and understand the need to meet some of the obligations of the State of Nebraska but I do believe it would be unwise of us to completely eliminate the cancer research program or to accept the Governor's elimination of the cancer research program at this point in time. I have not been difficult to get along with in this area. I think we could have overridden the entire Governor's veto last year if some of us had gotten behind it but I did at that time not object to the \$800,000 cut but I strenuously object to a full cut and elimination of the cancer research program in Nebraska now. The Department of Health has looked at the rules and regulations. They are considering them. I have submitted some amendments to them for their rules and