

seen several in the newspapers and yet have not seen the subsequent filing of the nonpayment of the tax to go with it. And, apparently, the reason they are not doing that, I assume, because possession simply is all that you have to prove, and it isn't a question of law as to whether or not those charges would stick, like they typically have that prerogative, it seems to be a question that there is nothing motivating them to do it.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Conway. I don't know that I am going to oppose the Conway amendment at this time. I do...I guess I am uncomfortable with the notion that we are, essentially, giving the county attorneys of the State of Nebraska, or the counties of the State of Nebraska a payment in order to do what probably is their job anyway. I am not sure that is something the Legislature ought to be engaged in on a regular basis. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Any other discussion on the Conway amendment? Seeing none, Senator Conway, do you wish to close?

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Again, we are in a situation here, and the Highway Patrol, when they came in and testified for the bill, were also very supportive of it. The concept is, again, to have a tax on an illegal activity, and it has been kicked in. It seems to be working up to this point. I believe in Minnesota, who has had a similar program for two years, I believe, longer than we have, they are in now to the collection of somewhere in the area of well over \$3 million. There is money out there. There is a tax bill that is due. It does provide another tool for law enforcement in terms of dealing with the problem with drugs, and it also provides a cash fund, if you will, for a lot of local activities. And in a way, I guess in response to Senator Will's questions, not only is it a motivation that I think they will file it more, more apt to file it, but maybe, more importantly, what we do need is some local pools of money to continue to work on the drug effort in terms of education and the like, so...and an enforcement pool locally because the State Patrol is not certainly the only entity out there who is in this business, but we have a lot of local law enforcement people at the city-county level, that a local fund to be used for these purposes may be very valuable to them. So there is why we are looking for the change.

SPEAKER BAACK: You have heard Senator Conway's closing. We