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LB 283

some discussion with Senator Jensen and I have some problems with it, but the reasons for supporting the increase in general are very obvious, I think, to all of us. I think here's an industry that's been getting a free ride for the last several years when you start comparing it, as Senator Jensen did, with cigarettes, or you might recall that we had a proposal here to tax pop and that the cost or the tax on a can of pop was going to be three or four times what it is on a can of beer. Somehow or other, that doesn't make sense to me. The other question, however, and it was raised by Senator Landis, is this, and that is the so-called border bleed where people will go across the border to purchase these things. We've talked about that the difference in money isn't very much, but I think there's one other significant thing. In past discussion regarding whether our people go out of state to gamble, it's 80 percent of the people go to Iowa and another significant percentage to South Dakota. If I remember the figures right that were passed around here, those are the two states where, if our people are going to leave to buy their liquor, that the taxes are higher than what they are in the state of Nebraska. So I would not anticipate that we'd have the border bleed that we might ordinarily worry about. What mostly concerned me here, however, was that I really think that maybe the best way is to put this all into the General Fund. That's where the money is needed. In the Insurance Committee, year after year, we have not earmarked things that had to be in insurance policies. It seems to me we're doing a little bit of that same thing here. But I guess if we're going to earmark these funds with the Brashear study and if we're going to implement this type of a program, and I sincerely think we should, then maybe this is the place to put some of that money for the treatment of the alcoholics and et cetera. So overall, I think I'm going to come down on the side of voting for the Jensen amendment for those reasons. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. The issue before the body directly is AM1737, offered by Senator Jensen to LB 283. On with discussion. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we're on the seventy-fifth day of this session, of this 90-day