

accident rate rose among older age groups. Another study, the Maxwell study in Illinois, found that when the drinking age was raised from 19 to 21 there was a 14 percent drop in the 19 and 20 year old fatal night male driver involvements. These numbers are not predictions. The experience of this country has been that raising the drinking age saves lives on our highways and streets. Let me emphasize that I have no desire to punish the 20 year olds. My goal is to allow more of them to stay alive so that they can celebrate their 21st birthday. In looking at the map on your desk, you will notice that three states surrounding us have an age 21 years of age except for 3.2 beer, and Nebraska doesn't have 3.2 beer. Iowa is looking at laws of this nature. Now it can be argued that we will lose some business by having people go to Iowa to purchase beer or alcoholic beverages. This is true but I think we need to make up our minds now whether we are going to be leaders in this area, or whether for a few shekels we are going to contribute more of our twenty year olds and other people's lives in this state simply to accommodate a few dealers. Interestingly enough you will be surprised to know that some of the beer dealers in this state support this legislation. The alcohol group has said to themselves and to the public we need to lift our image, we need not to have additional drunks driving on the road. So it is not a big deal that we are talking about here as far as money is concerned. In the past 75 years, the life expectancy in this country has increased for every age group except for those between 15 and 24 years of age. The major cause of death for this group is traffic fatalities with many of those deaths attributed to drinking and driving. Studies show that at least 60% of fatally injured teenage drivers had alcohol in their blood, and as I recall a few days ago there was an article on the front page of one of the local papers saying that that percentage was considerably higher. One of the effects noted in those states that reduced the legal drinking age was the increase in the number of younger teenagers who were drinking illegally. When the legal age for the drinking was 21, the younger person could purchase beer or other alcoholic drinks for his underage friends. Those friends were likely to be just under the legal drinking age or perhaps 19 years of age or younger. But when the legal age was reduced to 18 or 19, the underage drinking friends of the legal drinker were likely to be 17 or 16 or even younger. So with raising the