

appreciate Senator Hannibal's sincerity and he is that, but I want to tell you that I, personally, do not believe that there is any magic in the age 21 for the authority to drink, or the legal right to drink, and I am opposed to the 21 year old drinking age. I believe, personally, that the drinking age ought to be 19. I think the age of majority ought to be 19, and the age of responsibility ought to be the chronological...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Members, let's give Senator Newell a little help here. Order in the Chamber.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...that chronologically if there is a magic age the magic age ought to be 19 for the question of maturity and rights in this state. The State of Nebraska has not been particularly philosophical in its approach to adulthood. In fact the State of Nebraska feels that you are old enough to vote if you are 18, you are old enough to sign contracts and all those kinds of things if you are 19. This year we think you are old enough to drink if you're 20. Next year we think you're old enough to drink if you're 21. We think it's right to be drafted if you are 18. We think you can join the military if you are 17. We think that we ought to be able to use our children any old way we want to and I, frankly, don't concur with that philosophy. I do believe that we ought to have uniformity in the rights of young people, and that we need to pick an age where in fact we recognize them as adults. For me that is 19, not 21. Nebraska has not managed to lead on very many other things. I think it is wrong for us, as the Legislature, to ask that other states follow us in a mistake that we have made by raising the drinking age to 21. For those reasons specifically, I am opposed to LR 258.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Chambers. Very well. Any further discussion on LR 258? Any further discussion on LR 258? Senator Hannibal, you may close.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Well, Mr. President, I appreciate Senator Newell's concern. I don't really argue with many of his points. They are the same arguments that were used in LB 56. I was on the same side as Senator Newell for that