

to people is don't be quiet, don't be content, don't work through the system, don't go out and get jobs, raise a little hell, scare them a little down at the Legislature and they might give in. That seemed to be what worked for the students I was involved with for myself at the University of Nebraska ten years ago. Obviously, what the current generation...the types of people we have as Pages, are involved in is not working. I really don't think that this Legislature is being very consistent when you look at the long term history. Supposedly, in 1970 this was a more conservative Legislature than it is today, and it seems to me that the rejection of the DeCamp amendment is the most reactionary and irresponsible thing that I can imagine, particularly when you consider that ten years ago, given what was going on in our country, given the so-called generation gap, given the so-called protests, this Legislature chose to lower the age majority. I think of the interest of consistency and I think in recognition of the maturity that has been demonstrated by the 19 and 20 year olds of today, this Legislature would like to extend them some more privileges rather than deny them privileges.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will be very brief and I rise to oppose the DeCamp amendment, and I guess the question continues to ponder within my own mind as to whether or not an 18...or a 19 year old would have the emotional maturity, the psychological maturity to serve on a jury, when these people, probably the majority of them, have never had a full time job, have very little understanding of what finances are, or what even money might be, and yet they would be thinking and probably making decisions in terms of hundreds of thousands of dollars in some cases, and I guess, perhaps, some rationale might be said of why not let a three year old enter school at the age of three, or why not let a fourteen year old become a driver at the age of fourteen, as opposed to sixteen? Well, why not let our young people of the state marry at the age of fifteen or fourteen, as opposed to what it is now. I rise basically to oppose the DeCamp amendment on the grounds of maturity, all of the intangibles that I don't think we can define here. Skirting the issue seems to be the rule rather than the exception on many issues that confront this Legislature, and I certainly think this to be one of them. I think we have wasted a great deal of time. I think the majority of the members of this body