

March 27, 1979

LB 234

28 and 36, witness Johnny DeCamp when he first came to the Legislature. The point I'm making is, to say that maturity occurs between 19 and 21 is merely to affirm what we all know that maturity and development in life is an ever ongoing process, and that the state chose to say 19 is where it occurs and that's where we... that's where we have to live. Then the next question was well then, if you feel they aren't mature at 19, let's move that age up. As a practical matter, I don't think you're going to see that happen. Remember this, that tens of thousands of legal contracts and loans, and so on and so forth, have already occurred between 19, 20 and 21. So I think we have to recognize that rightly or wrongly, this Legislature accepted the concept of 19 being the age of maturity, of adulthood, and that it's the age we're going to impose responsibilities on you, and if you don't live up to them, if you can't live in that society, you may end up in jail. But to start creating aberrations in this system and saying 19 and 20 are an adult but not really, I think is a dangerous, dangerous precedent. Finally, the point about, well maybe a 19 year old is still in high school. Remember, this is just being eligible to be on that jury roll. There's a complete process that undoubtedly would strike that particular individual from the jury. I urge you to adopt the amendment with the understanding that all you're saying is that at age 19 you're in the process, you're in the responsibility to be available for jury duty if called. That's all.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House is the adoption of the DeCamp amendment to LB 234. All those in favor vote aye. Opposed nay. Oh...roll call vote. Pardon me. We will proceed then with a roll call vote.

CLERK: (Roll call vote was taken which may be found on Pages 1108 and 1109 of the Legislative Journal.) Senator Chambers changing from yes to not voting.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan voting aye. Senator Chambers voting aye.

CLERK: Senator Chambers changing from not voting to yes. Do you want me to announce the vote, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: How long does it remain open?

PRESIDENT: Till it is announced, and there are hands going