

April 4, 1979

LB 221

Sheehan, the Archbishop of the Omaha Diocese, United Catholic Social Services, Allen Ziegman, the athletic director at Kearney State College, the Nebraska State School Board, Board of Education and the Nebraska Association of Teacher Educators. Now there are dozens and dozens more individuals and organizations across this state that support this question. In opposition to this there are also many many people involved. It appears to me that the legislative process for it to be deliberative is going to have to deliberate and when a committee is head to head on four to four and no answer in sight, certainly deliberation should not be blocked on a stalemate. Deliberation should go forward by 25 votes here on the floor of the Legislature to stop the impasse so that the question on teenage alcohol drinking can be addressed publicly on the floor of this Legislature. Thank you for your time, Senator Cullan.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, I will support the advancement of this bill and I think if this bill would have been referred to Public Health and Welfare it would have been acting on this bill a long time ago. Since the committee is split fifty fifty on this I think it is important that the entire Legislature speak on this. I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Kelly if he has some more to say.

SENATOR KELLY: Senator Maresh, to stay with advancement of the bill, a year ago we had a public hearing on raising the drinking age to twenty one and in order to accommodate the public interest it was necessary to use the main chamber of the Legislature to accommodate the people that came to the hearing. We had another public hearing twenty days ago. It was necessary to hold that hearing in the main chamber of the Legislature because we have no hearing room that is big enough to accommodate the public that wanted to have input on this question. Those people that appeared at the public hearing and testified in favor of the bill again is a blue ribbon panel of people such as Clyde Story, the sheriff from Pender, Nebraska; a Mr. Bruce Gubser, an ambulance driver here in Lincoln; Mr. John Bartels from Beatrice, Nebraska, who is a junior high school counselor and knows this problem; Mr. Bruce Stutzman, a coach over at Milford, Nebraska; and Dr. Warren Bosley, a pediatrician and Dr. Michael O'Neill, representing the Nebraska Psychological Association; and Dr. Ben