

be. This bill purports to change the age, the drinking age limit. Some six years ago the Nebraska Legislature decided to lower the drinking age from twenty years to nineteen. The situation, and I want to remind you it was from twenty years to nineteen. This bill says that we should go from nineteen to twenty one, even beyond what it used to be, the drinking age. I have heard a lot of talk about how the committee is split, four-four. Well, I think the committee is not quite split four-four although the vote ends up four-four. If people would vote on their philosophical beliefs I don't think 221 would be alive today and so easily dragged from the committee but since it is going to be easily drug from the committee with only 25 votes and since many of you committed to bring this bill onto the floor for no other purpose than to debate it and waste this Legislature's time, even though you may not personally believe in this bill, I think that is wrong. That frustrates the committee system. That hurts the committee system and I want to say that this Legislature will continue to have and take a great deal of time discussing long and hard bills as controversial as this one when it may and maybe should have been avoided. But that is how it is. I think that some of the other arguments in favor of 221 are not as legitimate as they might be but that is for each one of us to look at and I would hope that before you push your button, my colleagues, I would hope before you push your button that you think and vote what you think the best interest of the state would be as opposed to what your promises may be, what your commitments might have been and so forth. I thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I will vote to bring this bill from committee for the reason that I think it should have thorough debate. I think we should make a decision. I won't reiterate the reasons why. You have heard them and I would like to relinquish the balance of my time to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I am going to be very brief and I am going to try to limit my remarks to the issue of bringing the bill from committee. Much has been said about the committee system and the integrity of that system but I do not think the intention of anybody who devised the committee system is to prevent discussion by