

April 25, 1979

LB 221

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President and members of the body, I am surprised and pleased to at least have the opportunity to talk on the subject. I thought perhaps Senator Cullan would call the question before we had a chance to debate this one but I am glad at least that we are going to be able to discuss some of the substantive amendments in discussion today. I rise to support the Koch motion and even though we haven't had much of a chance to discuss the bill let me...I have had an opportunity to listen to the bill since I served on the committee and let me go ahead and refute some of the points which I know that Senator Kelly initially tried to make and is going to continue to make on the floor today. The first one is the trickle down theory effect and that is that the nineteen year olds buy it for the seventeen year olds and the seventeen year olds drink or they may turn around and pass it on to the fifteen year olds and so on down the line and it just keeps trickling down. I never have been able to understand if the trickle down theory, in fact, is actuality, how it is going to change when you raise the drinking age to twenty-one. It seems to me all you are talking about is merely adding one more chain in the link. Certainly just because a person is twenty one that doesn't remove them from society. Twenty-one year olds know nineteen year olds who know seventeen year olds who know fifteen year olds. So you are still going to have if you have the trickle down effect, Senator Kelly, you are still going to have it whether you raise the drinking age to twenty-one, thirty-one or forty-one. Even at forty-one there is still some thirty-five year olds that know forty-one year olds who know twenty-eight year olds who know twenty-five year olds who know seventeen year olds. It goes down the line. I think Senator Koch really hit the nail on the head. There is no piece of legislation. There is nothing that the federal government or state governments can pass in the way of legislation which is going to solve this problem and the sooner the people realize this, I think the better off we are. Everybody seems to feel that the problem of teenage alcoholism and teenage alcohol abuse is going to go away with the passage of LB 221. It is not, not by any stretch of the imagination. The kid that is eleven or twelve or thirteen that is a teenage alcoholic right now and I know that may surprise many of you here but there is a very serious problem with teenage alcoholism even at that early stage. They are not getting it from nineteen year olds who are buying it for them. They are getting it at home from their parents and their parents may not know that they are drinking it but they are getting it. Watch if you will

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