

April 25, 1979

LB 221

sometime a program or two or read some material about the problem that we have with alcoholism of young kids in junior high or that age. They are not getting it from nineteen year olds that are buying it for them. They are getting it at home. They are drinking from their parents private stock unbeknowns generally to their parents or in some cases I have heard it said, thank God, at least he or she is only drinking alcohol. They are not smoking pot. They are not taking dope. At least they are just drinking alcohol. But it seems to me we are certainly not going to solve that particular problem. A couple of other things that I guess I am very concerned about is I think we are going to cause some more serious problems in certain areas than we have ever had before and that is the driving. You know if there is one thing that doesn't mix it is alcohol and driving. I would much rather see and I offered the amendment in all seriousness. Senator Kelly came back a few minutes ago and said I was really surprised that the amendment failed. When I offered the amendment on the breath tester I did so because I feel that at least at the bar you are drinking under a somewhat controlled manner. Now, granted, all people that run liquor establishments don't do as good a job as they should in terms of watching their clientele, shutting them off when they should but by and large it certainly is a controlled mechanism much more so than the kids drinking a six-pack of beer as they are driving down the highway having a lot of fun on a Sautrday night.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR SIMON: I at least think that that is a better mechanism. With the passage of this bill, of 221, we are going to see kids driving down to Kansas. We are going to see kids driving up to South Dakota. We are going to see kids driving over to Iowa. We are going to see all the border towns a tremendous change, a tremendous number of kids driving back and forth. I had a kid in my district who died just that way on the highway in Iowa, coming back. He was drunk. Now this piece of legislation is going to push nineteen and twenty year olds across the borders to drink in these towns and then come back and I think, Senator Kelly, you are going to have the exact opposite effect of what you want. I think you are going to see an increase in traffic fatalities. You are going to see more kids on the highways who are coming back from these border towns. I guess in closing, when the sheriff of Douglas County, Richard Roth, and when the police chief, Richard Anderson, both state publicly that they are opposed