

April 25, 1979

LB 221

We ought to first enact this particular provision, give it a try for three or four years and see if that is going to work to take care of the problems that have been complained of. Now let me explain precisely what this amendment does and precisely what it is about. Now it prohibits nineteen and twenty year olds from going in to package liquor stores and buying a case or buying a six-pack or buying a bottle of hard liquor and leaving the store with it and then going off to perhaps sell it to somebody else or to park their cars in the country and to drink it or whatever else they might want to do with it. Now what it does permit, however, it does permit nineteen or twenty year olds to go into bars and to buy liquor by the drink for consumption on the premises but they can't in a bar buy a six-pack for instance and take that six-pack off the premises with them. Now I think from a social point of view this might make sense because it will permit our nineteen and twenty year olds to drink under a supervised setting for two years. It will slowly break them into the problem of how to deal with alcohol responsibly in an adult fashion. It will ease them in to the drinking habits of our society for people that are over twenty-one. So I think we can justify it from a social point of view. Now my personal feeling is that I am against raising the drinking age. I think I agree with the experts in Omaha, with Sheriff Roth and with Police Chief Anderson and with others who say it is simply not going to solve the problem but I think that if I have to choose between two solutions this is the better of the two and I think there may be a lot of other members of the body who agree with me so Senator Dworak and I want to present this amendment to give you all an opportunity to vote on this to see if this is the direction that we would like the bill to take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman. Senator Reutzel. Is Senator Reutzel here? Senator Kelly, do you wish to speak? Senator Reutzel, the Chair recognizes you on the Dworak-Hoagland amendment.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like to support this but I guess...as a compromise, but I guess the major flaw I see in this is what we are saying then to the nineteen and twenty year olds, they are responsible enough or they are not responsible enough to go down to the package liquor store, down to the corner store, pick up a six-pack of beer, go back home and watch Monday night football. They are