

April 25, 1979

LB 221

SENATOR DeCAMP: I am going to try the question again.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Is there five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? Record. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak for purposes of closing on the amendment.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I believe in this amendment very strongly and have for two or three years. I think it is a good answer and a good solution to the problem and I might answer Senator Cullan, that if this amendment is passed, yes, I will support LB 221. I have publicly committed to support 221 with the passage of this amendment. I think we make too big of a deal out of this alcohol in this country and that is one of the problems we have right now and I think another thing this body has to remember is people are only willing, you can only govern to the extent people are willing to be governed. Now you can pass all the laws you want to. You can pass a thirty-five mile an hour speed limit. You can pass an age twenty-five drinking law. In fact, you can put prohibition back in in the State of Nebraska, but the passage of those laws and the effect on the public are absolutely nil. The people are only going...you can only pass laws to the extent that the people are willing to obey them, or the majority of the people, and I think the issue is crystal clear before us this morning. Senator Kelly, Senator Murphy, Senator Chambers, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, said the major problem is eighteen year old and under abusing the privilege of alcohol and they are absolutely right. That is a problem but the fact of the matter is it is illegal today for those eighteen year olds and under to drink alcohol. That is the fact of the matter. You have a law. There is a law. It is illegal for fifteen, sixteen, seventeen and eighteen year old youngsters to drink. It is illegal and what is the effect of your lawmaking? There is no effect and now we come in with a bill to say we will raise the age to twenty-one and what kind of an effect will that have? It will have the same effect the law has right now on seventeen and eighteen year olds and that is the fact of the matter and everybody in this body knows it. The fact of the matter is is that in this