

April 25, 1979

LB 221

teach their children how to use and not abuse alcohol but because I offered this when I was angry and because I earlier promised the Speaker that I would not introduce but one amendment to point this thing out I am going to ask now for unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment, please. I want to withdraw the amendment. I am not sure I put everybody to sleep or not.

SPEAKER MARVEL: No, no. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers now moves to amend the bill. On page 8, line 23, on page 11, line 20 and on page 13, line 13, strike "twenty-one" and insert "ten".

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I want to give it a moment to sink in. Then I want you to know that this is serious. A few weeks ago I talked to some exchange students from various parts of the world who have no drinking age in their country and from what they said they do not encounter the problem of teenage alcoholism that exists in this country. Obviously the numbers would not be the same because the population in most of those countries is less than what it is in America and I don't know what percentage of their population would be composed of teenagers. But if what has been said on this floor is genuinely believed then there should not be a legal drinking age. It should be up to the parents to teach their children and by their example determine what they want them to do. We have heard some members indicate in this body they have bars in their house and when there are parties the kids know it. It has been stated that parents do give liquor to their children. They accompany them to bars and conduct parties in their presence so this is an amendment. Maybe you should just strike an age altogether. Now I have heard and I see a letter that somebody had written to Senator Lewis. I have heard of attempts to equate drinking with serving in the military and there is no correlation whatsoever. As a matter of fact, if somebody had to read a radar scope I am certain that nobody would want that individual to be under the influence of liquor. Even those who are old enough to drink legally would not be reading a radar scope under the influence of liquor or flying a jet or manning a nuclear sub or any of these other things that they talk about and it shows how fuzzy the thinking is in this society and how things are lumped together and there is no differentiation. There is a sameness and a carelessness in thought and in expression and you will say if a person at a certain age can do this, therefore, the person of the same age should be able to do that but those things do not follow. The