

January 17, 1980

LB 221

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any objection? If not, so ordered. Senator Keyes, your light is on. There is nothing before the House at the moment.

SENATOR KEYES: Oh, I thought we had an amendment by Peter Hoagland and somebody.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Well, okay, just a minute. Pat, what is the next amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion is offered by Senator Koch to indefinitely postpone LB 221.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Good morning, Mr. Speaker and members of this body, this may be our last cocktail legally. Not many of you laughed because obviously it is not too funny. But I said that intentionally because we have been dealing with this issue for several years. The issue is raising the age of young people to some automatic figure that is going to solve all the problems associated with excessive use of alcohol. Not long ago you received, I am sure, a message from Massachusetts. They raised their age to 20. Hadn't solved many problems. Mr. Kelly passes out all the propaganda in the world about different things, different places, but he didn't pass this one on Massachusetts, did he. I have got reams and reams of propaganda from various states about how they solved the problem, but that one from Massachusetts, Senator Kelly didn't pass out to us. They raised the age to 20. It hasn't reduced one of their problems. In fact, if anything, they have arrested more young people, young adults, for drinking and excessive abuse of alcohol than ever before. You can give me all the figures you want to about this issue. I have been around quite a while and I have worked with young people longer than most of you have in here, in a classroom, on the athletic fields and other places. I have been there when it was 21 and I have been there since it has been reduced. It is not any worse today or any better than it ever has been. I want to remind you one more time that this body on numerous occasion has said that a young adult is responsible to enter into the contract of marriage, to raise children, to enter into loans, to enter into a lot of things that we say by some numerical number is a sign of maturity and adulthood. I also want to remind some people here that the NSEA, that powerful lobby that you often talk about, how they can control and wave the flag for this body, controls it. I have had a letter from my friends in the profession, principals, administrators and others, saying we need this bill, and I say, why. The school board, the