

Marijuana is against the law and marijuana is available. Marijuana is rampant and so by following his line of thought why not legalize it and tax it. I don't believe, in my experience, I haven't seen in my experience the responsibility of youth when it comes to mind-bending and mind-changing drugs. I believe like he does that our young people today are better informed, are better...cope to meet the world in many, many, many issues, but when it comes to mind-bending drugs and booze and things of that nature, I believe that they haven't matured as much as he thinks they have, and I am in opposition to his kill motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte to talk on the kill motion.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, you know I agree with Senator Fowler to a certain extent, that when he was in school they went sixty, ninety miles to get that six-pack of beer or the case of beer. But you know, ladies and gentlemen, you have got to keep in mind this point. Then it might have cost them a buck or a buck and a half or two bucks for that gas for the round trip. Today to make that same round trip and to get the beer it is going to cost them twenty or twenty-five dollars for that same sixty mile jaunt, and I don't think...I don't think our young people have got that kind of money, not three, four nights a week. It is kind of interesting...it is kind of interesting here this morning that we seem to know what all the answers are, but I think most parents, and, yes, Senator Koch, I am there right now. I am in the classroom. I have been in the classroom for the past fifteen years, and I can't help but think that at least ninety percent of the parents of this state would certainly favor the drinking age being raised to 21. I think we are fooling ourselves to think that these young people will not respect the law, and I think that is the key issue. If we raise the drinking age to 21, are we saying that our young people are going to defy the law? We sound, Senator Koch, like a bunch of anarchists here. You know, why write the rules if we are not going to abide by the rules. Senator Koch, I believe that you believe in a very democratic form of government. I don't think that you think that our young people are not going to abide by the law. If we raise it to 21, why aren't they going to respect the law, Senator Koch? They are citizens of this state. Most of us in here have grandchildren. Most of us in here have children of our own. Now how many of them would defy the law today, honestly and truly? If the age were raised to 21, how many of them would go out three nights a week, two nights a week, and defy the law? I don't think very many. Certainly we will have our percentage.