

January 17, 1980

LB 221

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes, do you wish to speak on the Hoagland motion?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I do, folks, and I want to tell you that there is something happening on the floor of this Legislature that has never been mentioned here. Senator Kelly has sat and talked about the bill. Senator Koch has talked about it. Senator DeCamp has brought it out, but hallelujah, folks, we are adding respectability to the bars and the saloons and the joints of this state. That is what we are doing. We are telling our 18 and 19 year olds that there is only one place that is decent for you to drink, and that, my friends, is in the bar. Come on down to the saloon. Come on down and see what is there. That is where all the nudity goes on. That is where all the vulgarity goes on, and that's where everything that is sinful and destructive to this nation of ours happens, and you are saying to the people of this state, bring your sons and your daughters into my saloon...bring them in, because this is where respectability is for you to drink, not in the parks, not at a baseball game or a softball game in the evening. You can't drink there. You have to go down to the saloon and the bars. Folks, turn this amendment down. Kill the bill and let these young folks that want to drink drink in a place where it is decent. I'm through.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I support the amendment. I support it very strongly, and I hardly know where to begin. I guess just to give you a bit of a feel where I am coming from, I always get a bit of an uneasy feeling when you start taking rights and privileges away from a whole class of people. This amendment clearly solves the problem of liquor to the high school students, at least insofar...it solves it insofar as Senator Kelly's bill would. So the only other important question remaining is whether we should take the right to drink away from those who are 19 and 20. Taking away a right or a privilege from a whole class of people is a dangerous precedent, and what goes around comes around, and let me tell you what I mean. It has made me very sad that much of the opposition, many of the letters that I have gotten on this bill, and I would have to admit they run in favor of Senator Kelly, but most of them are from the senior citizens in my area, and the older citizens, and I find this sad and ironic. Let me tell you what I mean. A few years ago and today we are fighting this battle called mandatory retirement laws. Ever think about the connection between these two things? Mandatory retirement laws...what is that all about? It is denying a right to a whole class of people because a very small minority of those people are not