

January 29, 1980

LB 221

SENATOR KOCH: All the statistics that you handed out though have been pretty much predicated upon the age of 21, have they not been?

SENATOR KELLY: That is correct.

SENATOR KOCH: Now then, would you tell me in your wisdom the difference between a 19 and a 21 and a 20 year old?

SENATOR KELLY: One year.

SENATOR KOCH: One year. That is correct. Now will that solve the problem in terms of a neurotic condition of some who overuse and abuse a substance which is indeed harmful? Will that one year solve that problem?

SENATOR KELLY: I do not know.

SENATOR KOCH: Then the question to you, Senator Kelly, is why are you willing to take 20? You were insistent that 21 was going to solve the problem. Now you are capitulating to a 20.

SENATOR KELLY: Will you vote for 20?

SENATOR KOCH: No, sir. I am going to stand on my principle. I opposed this bill from its very inception, but it is obvious that you think that we are going to solve some kind of a problem by accepting the 20-year old amendment. I would suggest to you, Senator Kelly, and to the members of this body that much of what we call progress or trying to solve a problem isn't merely the substitution of a complicated nuisance for a simple nuisance, and we are not going to solve this problem by taking 20. I will state it again for the record. I happen to live in a part of the state that has the greatest number of human beings, and we live next to a community that has a drinking bill in age difference than we do, and we are not going to solve that problem. Iowa is 19. We are going to put ours at 20, yet you just used Iowa as an example saying, since they have the number of 19 that there has been some reduction in the problems that they have in terms of drinking and driving. We have 19 in this state, yet you are saying we are in a state of chaos. I would also suggest to those who read the statistics that Senator Kelly hands out in bundles that he only quotes figures since 1972. Why doesn't he quote us figures prior to that time? Because they didn't keep records then. Now we are keeping records for some reason so it is always appropriate to use those figures that we have been accumulating over the past few years.