

January 29, 1980

LB 221

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler and Senator Wesely.  
Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to speak to Senator Kelly's remarks dealing with the Lincoln Journal's editorial and some of the past statements Senator Kelly has indicated about those who oppose the bill. In fact, Senator Kelly has been so articulate that anybody who opposes LB 221 is a tool of the special interest groups meaning the liquor lobby and not a person of principle. He has been most articulate on this. In fact, he has been so articulate and he has restated this so many times that even the Lincoln Journal believes that. Now the editorial that Senator Kelly passed out talks about how the Legislature has opted with this split on-sale off-sale amendment to be the tools of the liquor lobby. I would like to set the record straight here, because as I understand and as the Chairman of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee I do get an opportunity to talk to some of the liquor interests in the state, that this split on-sale off-sale option is not the darling of the liquor community. In fact, it creates a number of problems with some of the smaller retail shops and quite frankly more people are opposed to this on-sale off-sale than any other part of the provision, because it does create difficulties, you know, at the end of the night when somebody buys a six-pack to go home or something like that. Now I am not speaking in opposition to the Hoagland-Dworak proposal, but I am just trying to set the record straight in terms of what is preferred or not preferred by the liquor interests. What we have done with this compromise is, and I am not excited about the compromise, I philosophically, Senator Kelly... Senator Kelly, ever so philosophically I oppose 221, and I am not a tool of the liquor interests, Senator Kelly. I just plain think this is the...to coin a phrase used last, two years ago, the right problem and the wrong solution. This is not a solution. LB 221 in any form will not be a solution, but at least it is not the height of demagoguery which would take place in the original bill. The height of demagoguery is to raise the drinking age to 21 and make illegal drinkers out of those who would continue to experiment and use alcohol who are under 21 years of age. That, to me, is the height of demagoguery, and 20, the compromise that we have heard touted and talked about, is still demagoguery only it is demagoguery for one year less. It is prohibition. It is prohibition, which never worked the first time we tried it, for one year less. Now the 19 on-sale off-sale amendment is not a good compromise, Senator Kelly. A good compromise would be to kill this bill. That, to me, is a good compromise, but the on-sale off-sale proposal

6527