

April 8, 1981

LB 258

as well as reports by liquor inspectors". It is interesting to me that the Nebraska License Beverage Association which is the major opponent to LB 258, was involved in that action. It kind of appears that maybe they are a little bit interested in protecting competition or protecting themselves from competition even to the extent of working to close down Nebraska's only remaining brewery. And I guess that it's just my feeling that the function of the state laws should not be to protect those retailers from competition and in that spirit I would hope that you would revive LB 258. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose this motion to reconsider. In the discussion last week when we indefinitely postponed LB 258 I thought it was the body's decision at least at that point in time and I would hope that it would stay that way, that there really aren't any gaps out there as far as services provided by retail entities for alcoholic beverages, and I can't really think that there has been any change in the need in the past week for this additional license. If there is any place in the State of Nebraska where you can't buy alcoholic beverages of your choice simply because there is not a retail outlet available, I personally don't know where that is at and I can't think that having a new license category for strictly beer and wine off-sale would change that any. I also point out to this body that what we discussed last week was that in reality what this is doing is creating a new class that some of the Kwik Shops, some of the grocery outlets might use. I can't think that there is a lot of public need considering the fact that the public, I believe, recognizes that we do have enough outlets, that alcoholism is a problem. We have got several bills going through here this year attempting to raise the taxes, various other methods of dealing with the alcoholism problem, and now at the same time we are attempting to open up more avenues supposedly because there is places where you can't buy enough alcohol-related products and I just think it is a ridiculous assumption to follow this procedure and I would urge this body's voting no on the reviving of LB 258.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins, do you wish to be heard on this? Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. Speaker and members, I spoke to this matter the other day, the day that it was indefinitely postponed. I again speak in opposition to the revival