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LB 221

since 1971 is when the problem has happened with teenage drinking in this state. Our incomes, our percentage of people, our percentage of students, our number of drivers, all of these statistics are relatively the same. The only difference is that nineteen is the legal drinking age and in 1971 with teenagers and alcohol deaths and automobiles there were twelve. The next year when nineteen year olds became legal drinkers this went to seventeen and it has climbed right on up to 1978 with twenty-eight. Disaster-ville all the way through. The teenage abuse in high school age groups is well known, has been well documented, you have all read many articles, local and national on this scheme. You have not read this by August F. Schuman which is the county district judge up in Ainsworth in Brown, Rock, Cherry and Keyapaha Counties where he has advised me and I have circulated this to you, 64% of the cases processed in his court, of those people who were under nineteen years of age, 64% of them alcohol related. Now that is not New York or Maryland or California. That is Rock County, Nebraska. It is well documented the increase in alcohol consumption from thirty-six million to forty-four million in a matter of six and a half years. Okay, so the teenagers are killing themselves in automobiles but so are the older adults. They are drinking more and they are killing themselves more. They are damaging more also, not true. The Safety Committee in Nebraska is doing an excellent job and I submit these figures for your understanding. In 1971 eighty seven adults who were twenty-one and over were killed in Nebraska in automobile alcohol related accidents and in 1978 this figure has processed down to eighty two. They are at five less, 6% less in adults. The teenagers increased 233%. Not enough? We will use a comparison in Nebraska. We will use Kansas which has 3-2 beer for eighteen year olds, twenty-one for all other alcoholic beverages. In Missouri the age is twenty-one period. Nebraska as you know is 233% increase in teenage alcohol automobile deaths. In Kansas it seems to be acceptable. It is only 146 with eighteen year olds drinking 3-2 beer while we are 233. We move over to Missouri which their records will show that they have a decrease of 19% in these categories, down to 81%...

PRESIDENT: About a half a minute, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Kansas at 146 and Nebraska at 233 and that is epidemic disaster all the way. It is well documented for you and in the press and everywhere else of all medias, that the public fully supports even on the Joe Williams poll by the Nebraska Council of Alcohol Education, two to