

March 26, 1979

LB 234

SENATOR MARESH: So you think there is an accurate system kept that the residents from Fillmore County getting a license here in Lincoln, in Lancaster County, won't be on the list here, they will be back home.

SENATOR REUTZEL: I think that can be taken care of, yes, sir.

SENATOR MARESH: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, then Senator Stoney, then Senator Landis. Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose Senator Reutzel's amendments to this bill. The purpose of this bill in the first place was to make more responsible people be on juries. Now I ask you what does a driver's license have to do with making you more responsible. But to go back to the number one amendment as suggested by Senator Reutzel, here we have taking it back to nineteen years of age. This study surely to get more people, to get more bodies to serve on a jury, why not lower it to seventeen, sixteen, fifteen. There are smart, intelligent young people down in these ages but generally speaking it seems to be the concensus of most people that as you go through the early part of your life you gain experiences, you gain judgment. In the opinion of the Judiciary Committee, people twenty-one years of age have better judgment and more education than those of nineteen years of age. That is why it was amended to this. I believe that the Bar Association, others, contributing to the hearings feel that this bill should provide people who have good judgment. Now I agree with the bill in the part that rules out certain occupations and so forth. Those people should probably be serving on juries and it does expand the number of people that would be available to serve on the jury but by and large I don't think these amendments that Senator Reutzel has would do that. Now as far as the driver's license list is concerned, I presume that the larger counties, namely, Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy, would not have a problem with putting names on from the list of driver's licenses since they are, I understand, computerized. I think that most of the counties in Nebraska would have a problem if someone were to be hired just to put names on a jury list. I think that a person when they register to vote they accept some responsibility in their government. They are at least interested. If you are just going to take bodies, interested or not interested, I think that you will dilute the purpose of the bill in the first place. I