

April 4, 1979

LB 221

Legislature has defended young people and has been as concerned about them as I have. I lived with them for at least ten years in North Platte, Nebraska, Senator Rumery, and Bellevue, Nebraska, and I saw some of them at your reception the other night, some that are lawyers and some that are businessmen and I am proud of all of them. I am extremely proud of my association with those young people. I am extremely proud of my two young daughters, one is sixteen and one is seventeen. The solution is not in this issue. The political solution is in this issue so that each of you can go back to your districts and say, yeah, I have solved the alcoholic problem with the young person. Senator Kelly is dead right on the issue. There is a serious alcoholic problem with the young people. There is a serious alcoholic problem with people of even age twenty one and above. The solution is not a state law. You know, I called over the last two years, several members of the Iowa Legislature and I asked them personally, I beseeched them personally to raise their age that is consistent with Nebraska. Those of us that live in Omaha, those of us that live in Bellvue, those of us that live in Blair, Nebraska, and Senator George and I talked about that at noon today and it is very difficult to get over that bridge. Those of us that live in Scottsbluff, those of us that live in Chadron, those that live in South Sioux City, those that live in Falls City, the accessibility to alcohol is there and I want to be serious for a couple of minutes and I want to talk exactly to you where the issue is...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have got one minute.

SENATOR LEWIS: I am going to finish that one minute. I am going to tell you that probably I know each of you just like you know me. I have two teenage daughters and I have a very small bar not under lock and key. I don't do an inventory control every day. If they want the alcohol I am sure they can do that. The concern I have and, Senator Kelly, this rests right in your hands and that is where I want it, that in order to do something that you think you are doing something with and you subject more children, more young people to transportation and driving to get alcohol, I want that on your back because that is the issue. This bill is not going to resolve the accessibility of alcohol to young people. I proposed at least five different ways to do that. I propose that we make it as tough as possible for those that procure alcohol for young people, a massive fines, days in jail if necessary, Senator Venditte, if somebody procures that