

April 4, 1979

LB 221

for young people.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I want to finish with this and I know maybe you will give me seven more seconds, that you are going to pass a bill and each of you are going to go home and say, I have solved that problem and that is not going to work. If you want to vote the way that is politically right, the way that you think that you can get by with it, then I vote to put the bill out. If you want to do what is legitimate and right and the way to handle it you will vote no. It is a political vote.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Nebraska Legislature, I am not going to debate raising the drinking age to twenty one but the previous speaker has brought the bill into play and I submit to this Legislature, to each and every one of you, that the City of Chicago, Illinois, includes Hammond, Indiana, and the state line of Illinois and Indiana goes right through the middle of one of the most populous cities in the world. Their city council in Chicago, Illinois, about ten days ago, raised their drinking age flat out to twenty one which lines up with Indiana. Now listen to this. Their vote in the city council in that metropolis, was forty three in favor of raising the drinking age to twenty one and there was one vote in opposition, but that is not the question that we have here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. What we have here is raise 221 to General File so that it can be put on special order and get the attention that this question needs and is just being cried for by the public. Yes, it is politically popular to support raising 221 to the floor and rightly so because there are truly hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens that want to hear the debate on this floor. If there is amendments they want to hear those amendments. I hear of them. I hear rumors in the hall. Somebody has an amendment. Somebody has an amendment but I don't see anybody with an amendment because there isn't anything to amend. I have an amendment. I have a whole drawer full of amendments to LB 221 or any other liquor bill that would toughen up drinking just a little bit and the penalties toward it. Number one, Senator Frank Lewis, would be the dram shop act. Now that will cost some money. That is a tough penalty and I would guess the chances of getting that accepted in the State of Nebraska at this reading would be rather