

April 4, 1979

LB 221

remote but it certainly should be a part of the public policy debate. This is something that we need to talk to and the vehicle in which to talk is LB 221, the 25 votes to put it on the floor so that then we can get to the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think we probably have debated this thing about as far as we need to to get it up to the point that we want to get it to to vote on whether we want to bring it out of committee but I have a couple of things I can't help but say. The first is that of course I have to support Senator Kelly each year on this issue so this is nothing new. He was right and others have said that it is popular at home. The people in my district want this to happen, not because it is politically good but because we do have a problem. I do disagree with Frank Lewis that we should just fold our hands and say we can't do anything about it. I believe that is what he said. I am a father. I have raised two fine sons and two fine daughters. Luckily we didn't have much problem with alcohol because I think that is where the problem really lies in how children are raised rather than any law you pass but it doesn't always work that way. I also have eleven grandchildren under eighteen. The oldest is sixteen and their parents advise me they would like to see this bill pass, not because they are going to deny their children the right to have alcohol in their homes if they want to as Senator Lewis has said, but because on impulses and don't forget, when you are seventeen, eighteen, sixteen, you are very impulsive. If you remember your own childhood, your own youth, you will remember that. You are influenced by your peers very easily. It is a crucial age. If you can make it past those teen years, now I would expect it would be from fourteen or fifteen to perhaps nineteen to twenty. It use to be from about seventeen to twenty one. I think young people are growing up a little faster, maybe too fast for their own good but I know this is not the total solution. I think every man and woman in here knows that but it is a step to try at least, let's say try, to keep young people especially those fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen years old from being so easy for them to have a nineteen year old who is their friend, boy friend, whatever it might be, go in and buy a six pack or a quart or a flask of liquor of any kind and pass it around. I know we are going to have trouble going across the border and across the bridges. We have had that with Kansas for a long time. We don't have the bridges and probably it is