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LB 589

SENATOR GEORGE: No, I have not recently contacted the Liquor Commission. As far as I am concerned, I would take all fourteen. So I think I am very gracious in leaving ten there.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator George, you know, if you could prove to me that they don't need the four or that that was an additional service, you know, some additional things that they wanted to do, but as I understand it, the Liquor Control Commission is having some difficulty doing an adequate job of policing the liquor interests now in the various retail establishments. Senator Kelly has complained greatly about some of the problems of teenage drinking and those kinds of things saying that we have problems with the enforcement and people are buying alcohol for other, you know, for younger people and that retailers are being less attentive to those kinds of things and I think that that kind of thing would increase if you cut them from what their staff was last year, you cut them by what seems to be about 40%. How do you expect them to continue their mission and to do some of those things that Senator Kelly and others have asked them to do?

SENATOR GEORGE: Senator Newell, if anybody wants to control the liquor laws as we have them right now, it ought to be in some small town the constable or the police force or the sheriff, and if they can't do it, they can ask the state patrol to come in too. We have three different law enforcement agencies that can enforce those laws. We have many other departments who have no separate enforcement arm of their own but the Liquor Control Commission has it. I probably wouldn't take it away from them if I wouldn't feel it is absolutely necessary to increase the number of people that we have to work as undercover agents in order to control the traffic of drugs. That to me is far more important and these people simply don't have enough staff and, therefore, I think well we just don't have enough money to really increase both of them. I think, it may be a subjective statement, Senator Newell, but I think it is far more important that we increase the drug control.

SENATOR NEWELL: Can I ask this question, you said before in your opening remarks that if you could take all fourteen staff away, that would be a preferable sort of thing. Aren't you basically doing part of that with your amendment as opposed to adding the additional drug enforcement people that you feel are necessary?

SENATOR GEORGE: No, I am not. They still have ten left,