

April 9, 1979

LB 589

and that creates a great hardship on certain retailers, and from time to time even in my district, I have some problems with retailers who don't appreciate the enforcement that the Liquor Control Commission provide. The State Patrol has not asked for the additional employees and I am not sure that the State Patrol would want them as nonuniformed officers so I think what Senator George is doing here is helping out when no one really wants him to.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up, Senator Newell. Senator George, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR GEORGE: Yes, Mr. President, just to answer briefly just generally Senator Newell's line of thinking. I think we do set our policies here. I have had input in my own district and I know from work of the officers that try to control the traffic of drugs that they are horribly understaffed. I know they cannot handle it. I have talked to these people and I know that it cannot be handled statewide. They do need an increase. Now whether a particular bureaucratic agency requests an increase or not is not that important to me at this point. We, as this body, have to set a policy whether right now we want to put somewhat more emphasis on drug control than on liquor control. We all know that we don't have enough money to increase both and all I am doing is to give a slight reduction of liquor control people because I do believe that the local police force, that the sheriffs and the state patrol can handle that. They do most of that anyway but that the drug control officers definitely need an increase because I know from my conversations with those people that they cannot possibly handle the job. I have in several instances requested additional personnel in my district for drug control purposes and I did not receive them. If you have a drug problem in your district, and I am sure all of us do, and you will request additional personnel in your district, you will find out that they are not there. Four people probably isn't even enough but at least it is a slight increase and they can most certainly use it. I move the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the George amendment to LB 589. All those in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed no. Voting on the George amendment to LB 589. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? One more time and then we will call for the vote. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote. Senator George.