

April 25, 1979

LB 221

recognizes Senator Koch for purposes of closing on his motion.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, first of all I apologize if I appeared to be very harsh. I will not apologize for any remarks I made. If I was overly accusing of parents, I didn't quite mean it that strongly because after all, it is a difficult job of being a parent. That leads me to a point I want to make. We train our engineers. We train all of our people who are skilled and technical, yet we allow our young people to grow up with very little knowledge of what makes a marriage, how you work in it, the responsibilities, the liabilities and the decisions that you must or must not make. But when you talk about health education and sex education in the public schools everyone just screams to high heaven because God forbid that we would ever train and help young people, advise them on how you work in a very important institution called marriage. What hypocrites we are as adults. Ask a parent about how his young teenager is doing and they will say, oh, super. You should have watched them the other day in whatever activity they were in. Now we say our young adults are irresponsible, lacking in character, self-discipline, self-esteem. That is what we are going to say by passing 221 but I submit to you Senator Kelly's analogy of the Hastings incident, turning off the gas, is a poor analogy. 221 won't turn off the booze and 221 isn't going to get to the crux of the problem that Senator Kelly wants to get to, which Senator Fowler said so well, which is the seventh and eighth grade young people if they are really involved. But I would remind Senator Kelly about twenty years ago when I was teaching at Westside. One night we had a sock hop. Two seventh graders were there and they were drunker than the lords, regurgitated all over the floor and we had to call their parents but where did they get their booze? Right out of their parents liquor cabinet. That was twenty years ago, Senator Kelly, and one of the lighthouses of education. Then we are going to solve this problem, yet half our population or more lives within a few miles of bordering towns where they can go and get it. The area in which I live, four hundred and some thousand people, how many teenagers? I don't know, but they will go get it and I submit to you I have made my statement today and I am going to walk out of here. I know what the record is going to be. The body is going to say, yes, we have got to put something on the books but I submit to you, you are not solving your problem. You are misleading people because alcohol, drugs, automobiles and media, TV, affluence, lack of knowing how to use leisure