

February 27, 1981

LB 217

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I think a great deal has been said on this already and I certainly do support Senator Von Minden on his bill here. He talks about in 1869 this law was put on the books. That was about...just a little plug...but that was a few years before we had Fort Hartsuff construction in our area. I think it is a good bill and I think it is time to change and, therefore, I support him on it.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell. Senator David Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I am trying to decide whether we are going to call the question or not and Senator Higgins wants a few moments of my time. So let me just make a couple brief remarks and then let Senator Higgins talk. First of all, we had interim hearings on this issue this summer and most everyone was in favor. I don't think there was any opposition at those interim hearings to doing away with the prohibition on election day. Second of all, the Election Commissioner has had numerous calls and problems and he has brought this to my attention saying that the traffic to Council Bluffs is very heavy come about five o'clock and it does detract greatly from the turnout that we might have in certain areas. There has been a lot of concern in terms of the restaurateurs, et cetera. I think this is a good bill. I support it and, Senator Higgins, if you would like to have some of my time so that the very next person if they wanted to call the question, they could. Senator Higgins, you may have my time.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Newell. I just want to commend Senator Chambers for his lack of experience in restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages and particularly in your neighborhood bars. Anybody who has ever been to a cocktail lounge in Omaha, where I think we have more than any other city in the state, can tell you that Monday and Tuesdays, you could drop a pin in most of them and hear it because the business is so slow. So I don't think by lifting this just on election day is going to affect the bars or the liquor industry one iota and I rather imagine that is why the liquor industry is not here to oppose it or be for it because it isn't going to make hardly any difference in their receipts. Thank you, and I don't know if it is proper. I just return the time back to Senator Newell.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers is the last one we have to