

March 30, 1981

LB 258

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner, did you want to answer it?

SENATOR KAHLE: I guess they say "no" for the record. I guess that the other thing I am concerned about is the age limit and I know that most liquor stores, at least, that sell liquor are very careful about ID's for youngsters that are coming in to buy but I am real concerned the food stores would not be that concerned especially if there was a six-pack of beer and whole cart full of groceries and this bothers me somewhat. And the other thing where I have seen liquor or beer and wine sold in grocery stores in other states, they had a special separate check-out. Does anybody know if that is contemplated in this bill? Senator Hefner, do you know? Would they be checked out right through the regular check-out counter or would they have a separate one?

SENATOR HEFNER: The question is, would they have a separate check-out counter, no. No, it would go right through the regular channel and I am sure that these grocery stores or convenience stores that you are talking about, I am sure that they are very careful with ones they sell to, too. I am sure they check a lot of ID's.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, I would be concerned that they wouldn't and, of course, there wouldn't be anything to stop kids from, at the right age, going in and loading up with beer and wine and one of them having an ID that would be twenty-one, twenty I guess it is now since Senator Kelly's bill, so I think we are creating a little bit of a problem. I believe liquor stores are classified as such and they watch this a little closer than grocery stores would so I feel I guess I will have to support the kill motion at this time. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Dworak. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Cullan just rose and talked about competition and he is in favor of this bill. I would remind the body Senator Cullan has a bill in that is going to raise the tax on alcoholic beverages so I suppose that would be to his advantage. If we make alcohol available in more outlets, it is going to raise more taxes if his bill passes. When it comes to competition, in my district in Omaha, well, according to the last census there is about 24,000 people, I have got exactly 99 bars. I call them the poor man's country club because they are neighborhood bars and they are run mostly by husbands and wives. They don't get rich. They don't make a hundred thousand a year but they make enough money to support themselves and send their children to school. It keeps them off the welfare roles but this bill is going to provide the