

March 30, 1981

LB 258

Kwik Shops that are open twenty-four hours a day with beer and wine licenses. Now the bars in Omaha as you know all close at 1:00 a.m. The Kwik Shops are going to be open twenty-four hours a day. In Omaha almost daily you read about these twenty-four hour grocery stores being robbed by young kids at that. They just come in, there is only one attendant there usually. A gang of them come in, steal what they want, run out the door and the attendant isn't about to leave the store and he isn't going to go chase them. Now what is going to prevent them at one, two, three o'clock in the morning from coming in and doing the same thing, ripping off the twenty-four hour grocery store, stealing their six-packs or twelve-packs of beer or wine and taking off. Do you think we have got enough police in the City of Omaha to go around and check on all of these grocery stores and see that they are obeying the law and not selling at 1:15 a.m., 1:20 a.m., 1:30 a.m. They have a tough time as it is to check in on all the bars and cocktail lounges. I have to support the kill motion because I am for the small businessman, and to me these little neighborhood bars, the poor man's country club, are nothing but small businesses. And I would like to have you come up to Omaha, especially in my district, and find out how many bars are selling fruits and vegetables and meat and potatoes the same as the grocery stores do. These stores will use this license as a leader item to get people in to buy their high priced groceries, and if you think that isn't unfair competition to the small bar owner, it is. So when you think about this bill and you think about competition, remember, these little neighborhood bars, they aren't in competition with the supermarkets or the quick shops that are open twenty-four hours a day. They are just trying to stay alive and make a living and they don't need another piece of competition to run them out of business. I support the kill motion and I certainly hope that when you vote you will think about these small businessmen and vote for the kill of this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. Chairman, and members, as a member of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee which heard this bill, and I believe as the only member of that committee that voted against it, I rise in support of Senator Vickers' kill motion. This is a bill which simply creates a new Class K license for on and off-sale beer and wine within the corporate limits of villages and cities in the State of Nebraska. In my opinion, it is totally unnecessary. As has already been said, we have enough outlets presumably doing the job that needs to be done. The bill is sponsored by the California