

January 8, 1982

LB 431

SENATOR NEWELL: If that would be okay.

SENATOR NICHOL: Sure.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope, do you wish to be recognized? Excuse me? The motion before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments as amended by the Hefner amendment. All in favor of that motion vote aye, opposed vote no. We are approving the amendments to the bill. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendments are adopted. Now are we ready for the bill as amended? Senator Newell, the Chair recognizes you to explain the bill.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, the bill as it presently reads, LB 431, will permit the Liquor Commission to allow... to set rules and regulations for the sampling of spirits, and that is requested. Originally the bill was intended to deal primarily with one area and that is for wine. The individual who asked me to introduce this bill is Mr. Lou Finnocchiaro who is a distributor of wines and spirits in the Omaha area. His business is primarily wines, however, and what we were trying to do here is to facilitate because of the type of product that he is selling, wines have distinctive tastes and flavor and so forth and becoming much more popular among the consumer than they traditionally have been. California wines are much more utilized by individuals today than they have been in the past. So basically what is trying to be accomplished with this bill, presently under Rule 35 you can sample wine, a retailer who is going to buy wine to stock in his retail establishment can sample wine but he can only sample wine on his own premises. Now what that really means is that the distributor has to haul a bunch of wines out to this retailer's establishment and any other retailer who is interested in trying to wines, he has to haul a bunch of different wines out to this one retailer and you can sample 48 liters per month, 96 liters of wine. So what you do is you have to go out to each and every retailer in the entire state, take the wines out to them. They then sample them to determine what flavors or tastes or odors or whatever their wines....I'm not a real connoisseur of wine myself, but they decide what they are going to buy. Now what this bill would permit, instead of the retailer going out to each and every retailer and providing this array of wines for them to choose from, he could, the distributor could invite the retailers to his establishment