

February 5, 1992 LB 291

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and they are not a hazard, yet they are to be punished, because the society of Nebraska has decided that you've got to come down with a hammer on the heads of the young people. This is a part of a larger movement aimed at putting more restrictions on young people and punishing them harshly for the sins of the mothers and fathers. These children are what they see. We can say all that we choose, but they watch what we do. I am not through with this yet but I wanted that philosophical statement from the bill in the record, and I will comment again on this very issue. But I am in support, strong support, of Senator Beutler's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President (sic), members of the Legislature of the Legislature, I wanted to clear up one point that was mentioned by Senator Kristensen, which I feared might confuse you. He said with this amendment, if somebody was .09, a young kid was .09 and was out driving, there would be no penalty. Well, that is not correct. The Class III misdemeanor penalty is still going to be applicable in that situation. But we are saying that with regard to the revocation of licenses, if they are drunk, fine; if they are not drunk, that is not so good. Just treat them like adults in that regard, just treat them like adults, make it the same for them as it is for everybody else. If you want to make it tougher for them with regard to imbibing, the rules with regard to imbibing before they are 21, that is what you are doing with this bill. You are already doing it by extending that Class III misdemeanor not just to situations where possession is obvious, but to situations where they are testing their breath and it is apparent that they have been drinking. So you are already making it tougher on kids, but I don't think that what Senator Kristensen indicated to you was accurate under the terms of the amendment that is being proposed to you. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, your light is on.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, either this bill is aimed at drunk driving or it is not. Either it is aimed at drunk driving or it is not. If it is going to