

STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
February 21, 1967

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman who stated the usual ground rules--speakers would be heard and then the Committee members would ask questions. Also, that only the opponents would be heard on the bill before the Committee at this time, H.B. 1161.

The Rev. Hollomon was spokesman, and stated that numerous petitions had been coming in from over the state expressing opposition to the proposal, and that he was certain that the Committee was aware of the feelings of various people over the state. He then introduced Representative Francisco who stated that he represented a portion of Sedgwick County and a portion of Sumner county which included four third class cities; that there are no liquor stores in that area; that he had received petitions bearing over 300 signatures which he had entered into the legislative records, and that he opposed the institution of liquor by the drink.

Dr. Lyman Johnson, Methodist Church, Hutchinson, stated that such permissive legislation would simply increase the problem; that traffic accidents in a large percentage of the cases, are directly related to alcohol. Alcoholism is related to availability, he stated. Mr. Mike Casado, a realtor from Wichita, and a brother of Senator Casado, appeared and expressed his opposition.

Dr. Lowell Cormack, a minister from Prairie Village, stated that he concurred with what had been said; that he works as a Chaplain for the Sheriff's Department in N.E. Johnson County and works with the Seven Step organization; that as such he sees the results of alcohol; that he represents a church of some 800 members; and that he does not sanction the passage of this bill. He introduced people from his church who supported him in his statements.

Dr. F. T. Fowler of the First Baptist Church of Topeka, stated that he also concurs with what has been said; and stated that he considers this bill as an equation---Liquor by the drink means more consumption of alcohol and more consumption means more problems. He states that one in every 12 drinkers becomes an alcoholic and only one alcoholic in 12 can be rehabilitated.

Rev. Brooks of the Methodist Church of Haysville expressed his agreement with what had been said. Mr. Hollomon stated that he wanted to make it clear that these people were not only opposing H.B. 1161, but all bills dealing with alcohol. Mr. Turner inquired if any of the people had read any of the other bills dealing with the liquor problem, and it was established that they had not.

Mr. Roland Fisher, a minister in Topeka, a member of the United Drys, a member of the Prohibition Party, and in charge of the Topeka Rescue Mission, testified that he deals with human wrecks all the time, that alcohol is responsible. He stated that it is his opinion that the \$400,000 that would be realized from this bill would actually mean very little by the time the cost of administration is taken out; that it looks to him as if this is a dealers' bill because it would mean increased sales.

The Chairman pointed out that the \$400,000 that has been discussed was the amount realized from the license fees under this bill, and had nothing to do with the tax realized from the sale of liquor. Mr. Buchele pointed out that in effect the alcoholic beverages would be taxed three times--once when the wholesaler sells to the retailer, again when the retailer sells to the dispenser, and again when the customer buys it.

The meeting was at this point adjourned to Room 522, and the Chairman asked for discussion on H.B. 1176, stating that he had an amendment that would take care of Sumner High School; that the sponsors of the bill and Miss Lohma Dennis were in agreement with it. Thereupon, Mr. Rogers moved that the amendment be adopted. Motion was seconded by Mr. Mikesic and carried without dissent. Mr. Rogers then moved that the bill, as amended by recommended favorably. Motion was seconded by Mr. Buchele and carried unanimously.

The Chairman stated that he had some bills that had been presented; one was on the civil rights question--he stated that it was drawn as the people wanted, that he had not read it but that he would like to have it introduced and re-referred. Mr. Doyen moved that this be done. Mr. Jelinek seconded the motion which carried unanimously. He stated that he had a bill requested by the Governor, and asked the same action. Motion by Mr. Doyen and second by Mr. Rogers, resulted in a unanimous vote in favor of this action. Thereupon, Mr. Doyen stated that he had a bill concerning Health Insurance; that he would like it introduced and rereferred so Mr. Hoffman and some other people could appear and explain it. Motion by Mr. Buchele that same be done, seconded by Mr. Rogers, resulted in a unanimous vote.

Meeting was adjourned. All members of the Committee were present.

MARGARET GENTRY, Secretary