

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL & STATE AFFAIRSThe meeting was called to order by Representative Robert H. Miller at
Chairperson1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 13, 1984 in room Supreme Court
Room of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Alyward - E
Representative Smith - E.

Committee staff present:

Conferees appearing before the committee:

James Burnett, National Transportation Safety Board
Sgt. Jacobs, Kansas Highway Patrol
Kathy Page
Sandy Golden
William Plymat, Sr.
Janet Baker
Ted Vonnacher, Lebo-Waverly
Bert Falley, Falley's Inc.
Karlene O'Brien, Emporia
Jean Davis, Kansas Cooperative Extension
Charles Baxter, Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance
Ron Welch, Triple A
Glen Leonardi, Kansas Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor's Ass.
Paul Pettit
James Hamilton, Nebraska Council on Alcohol Education
Laura Steuben
John Tilghman
Reverend Richard Taylor
Rosie Greenemeyer, Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers
Representative Anita Niles

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Miller.

James Burnett, Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, gave testimony on reducing alcohol-related accidents by raising the legal minimum drinking age to 21. See attachment A.Sergeant Jacobs, Kansas Highway Patrol, appeared in support of the concept of raising the minimum legal drinking age to enhance the safety of all motorists on Kansas Highways. See attachment B.Kathy Page, a Senior at Wichita High School West, related her experience with an alcohol related accident which killed her best friend and injured several of her friends. See attachment C.

Sandy Golden, an investigative reporter specializing in alcohol related accidents, gave his reasons why the drinking age should be raised to 21. He gave each of the committee a book entitled "Driving the Drunk off the Road". Simply raising the age to 21 is not enough; we need a comprehensive plan to do everything possible to get this problem under control.

William Plymat, Sr., a member of the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving and a member of the Iowa Governor's Task Force on Drunk Driving, gave the committee a few facts about the Iowa law. Beer is the beverage of choice for persons under age 21. One can become just as impaired with beer as with hard liquor. See attachment D.

Janet Baker, Shawnee Mission High School, spoke to the committee about her experiences with students in the Shawnee Mission area and the Alcohol Education program in the area.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the F&SA Committee on February 13, 1984

Ted Vonnacker, Superintendent of Schools, Lebo/Waverly, voiced his concerns about drinking by underage kids. Each of us has a responsibility to help prevent alcohol problems. We need to do what is best for the kids.

Bert Falley, Executive Vice-President and Secretary of Falley's Inc. expressed to the committee that the young lives that this bill would save would more than offset the sales the company would lose. See attachment E.

Karlene O'Brien, Emporia School Board, expressed her concerns about the use of alcohol by students in her district and how it effects their school work.

Jean Davis, Kansas Cooperative Extension Highway Safety Specialist, expressed their growing concern about fatalities from alcohol related accidents. The Kansas Women for Highway Safety have gone on record as supporting the legislation to raise the drinking age. If Kansas doesn't follow Nebraska's lead, we will have a delluge of students coming over here to drink along the border.

Charles Baxter, Kansas Farm Bureau Mutual, told the committee that the solution is not single fold. Tougher DUI laws are needed; the age needs to be increased to 21 and the sale of package liquor needs to be restricted to retail liquor sales. Everyone will benefit - insurance premiums will be reduced.

Ron Welch, AAA Automobile Club of Kansas, told the committee a beginning drinker is also a beginning driver - a combination that is often lethal. See attachment F.

Glen Leonardi voiced his concerns on behalf of the Kansas Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor's Association. See attachment G.

Paul Pettit, a student at KU, expressed his support for raising the drinking age to 21. The only reason to sell beer to 18 year olds is money.

James Hamilton, Executive Director of the Nebraska Council on Alcohol Education expressed his concerns to the committee on why Kansas should raise the drinking age. See attachment H & I.

Laura Steuben, a junior at Shawnee Mission East in Kansas City, told the committee that a lot of her fellow students drink. There should be more alcohol education in the schools. There is also a need for more strict enforcement. Attachment J

John Tilghman was associated with the Youth Center and has seen first hand how much peer pressure there is to drink beer and to keep up with buddies.

Reverend Richard Taylor, Kansan's for Life at its Best, told the committee he had distributed to them a telegram from Elizabeth Dole, a statistics sheet and a copy of his testimony supporting raising the drinking age. See attachment K.

Rosie Greenemeyer, Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers, gave testimony in support of raising the drinking age. See attachment L.

Representative Anita Niles gave testimony in support of raising the drinking age. See attachment M. Representative Niles told the committee there were two amendments that need to be adoped in HB2651 at the appropriate time.

A statement by Representative Farrar was distributed to the committee in support of raising the drinking age. See attachment N.

Hearings were continued to Tuesday.

A



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Safety Information

TESTIMONY OF
THE HONORABLE JIM BURNETT
CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEBRUARY 13, 1984

Atch. A

Good afternoon, Chairman Miller and Members of the Committee, I am pleased to be here today to present testimony on behalf of the National Transportation Safety Board on reducing alcohol-related accidents by raising the legal minimum drinking age to 21. With me today is Mr. Steve Blackistone from the Board's Bureau of Safety Programs, and Mr. William Klassen from our Kansas City Field Office.

I appear before you today to discuss what I believe is a national disgrace--the death toll of young Americans involved in alcohol-related highway accidents. Americans are dying on the highways at a rate of 43,000 a year, and at least half of those deaths are the result of drunk driving.

It is young people, under age 21, who are most likely to drive and be involved in accidents while impaired by alcohol. Relative to their numbers in the population, they have a higher drunk driving rate than any other age group.

To some the words "national disgrace" may sound overly dramatic but I submit that the words are rather mild considering the fact that we are talking about 4,407 deaths a year -- all of them involving persons between the ages of 16 and 21.

I realize that statistics do not tell the full story, but in the case of our young drivers, they carry a dramatic impact that can not be ignored. Those 4,407 teenage deaths represent about 21 percent of all fatalities in alcohol-related accidents, even though young drivers in that age group represent only about 10 percent of the licensed drivers and drive about nine percent of the miles.

That's not the whole story. Added to the death toll are 650,000 injuries -- 130,000 of whom are teenagers. The term "injuries" doesn't convey the full impact of this statistic. The injuries we are talking about include severed spinal cords, amputated limbs and disfigured faces and bodies. Many of these injuries result in shattered lives, families destroyed, and opportunities denied.

On the economic side, the insurance industry estimates that teenage drunk driving costs this country six billion dollars a year.

The U.S. Surgeon General has reported that life expectancy has increased in the last 75 years for all Americans except one age group. However, for those between 15 and 24 years of age, the death rate is actually higher than it was 20 years ago. And the single leading cause of death for this group is drunk driving.

In effect we are denying our young people the health and safety progress that has been made in this century.

The statistics for Kansas tell the same sad story as the national figures. In 1982, 27 percent of the drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes were under 21, and 28 percent of the fatalities resulted from these accidents. Yet, only 11.6 percent of the licensed drivers in Kansas are under 21. Young people are overrepresented in fatal accidents by more than 200 percent.

In the 3 years 1980 to 1982, in Kansas alone, over 197 people have died in highway crashes involving a drinking driver who was under 21.

There are statistics to show the scope of the problem, but it's the individual cases that illustrate the human tragedy. Therefore, before discussing possible ways of combatting this problem, I would like to discuss three accidents investigated by the Safety Board.

The first occurred about 12:45 a.m. on February 23, 1980. A two-door sedan westbound on U.S. Route 64 near Perry, Oklahoma collided head-on with an eastbound pickup truck. The sedan rebounded into the westbound lane and the pickup truck was struck by a following eastbound four-door sedan. The two door sedan burned, and its driver and all five occupants of the pickup truck were killed. The two occupants of the four-door sedan escaped with minor injuries.

We determined that the probable cause of that accident was that the driver, whose judgment and driving ability were impaired by alcohol, was operating his westbound vehicle in the eastbound lane while negotiating a hill crest at an excessive rate of speed. The 20-year-old driver of the two-door sedan had been drinking in a bar for several hours prior to the accident, and had a blood alcohol level of 0.20 percent.

In a well publicized April 1983 accident here in Topeka, an 18-year-old intoxicated driver ran a stop sign at a high speed and hit another vehicle broadside, killing a 28-year-old woman who was a well known local citizen. The roads were clear and dry. The victim had no alcohol in her blood and was driving within the posted speed limit. The teenager told a Safety Board investigator that he had been drinking 3.2 beer for approximately four hours before the accident and had consumed between 8 and 12 beers. The police measured his blood alcohol level at 0.16 percent.

On the evening of May 11, 1982, a group of five youths, ranging in age from 13 to 20 were driving in the Topeka area. They stopped and purchased a bottle of liquor. They then proceeded to Perry, Kansas where they continued to pleasure ride with no particular destination. At 11:40 p.m., while headed west from Perry on U.S. Route 24 the vehicle began passing another car. As the driver pulled out, a passenger told him that he couldn't make it and advised him to slow down. The driver disagreed and "stepped on the gas," reaching an

estimated speed of 87-90 mph. While attempting to pass, he struck an eastbound vehicle carrying an adult and two children. All three occupants in the eastbound vehicle and two of the teenagers were killed. The remaining three teenagers were seriously injured. An almost empty liquor bottle was recovered from the teenager's vehicle by the State Police. The 18-year-old driver of that vehicle had a blood alcohol level of 0.23 percent.

What is perhaps saddest about these cases is how unremarkable they are. Accidents such as these are killing an average of 14 people a day and injuring another 350. I chose these because they are fairly typical of fatal accidents involving alcohol and teenagers. These stories represent the brutal norm that occurs repeatedly across the country.

I want to stress that this is not a danger that threatens only one age group. The casualties in these accidents are not the drinking teens alone, but also people of all ages on highways who become their unwitting victims.

It is the unanimous and strongly held view of the National Transportation Safety Board that fewer people of all ages will die on our highways if the age requirement for purchasing all alcohol is 21 in each state. We believe the evidence is thoroughly convincing, and we must question whether critics who argue otherwise are placing economic considerations over safety concerns.

The Safety Board does not think that simply raising the drinking age to 21 will solve the problem. There is no one measure that will make our highways safe. But we do believe that passing an age-21 law is the single most effective alcohol-related legislative action that can be taken to cut the death toll, particularly among our young.

Let me tell you why the Board feels as it does.

The Safety Board has come to support the age-21 requirement based upon several studies which show a direct correlation between minimum drinking age and alcohol-related accidents in the 18- to 21-year-old age group.

To find proof of the link between drinking age and highway mortality, you need look no further than the states of Michigan and Illinois. When each state raised the drinking age to 21, it scored dramatic accident reductions. In Michigan the rate of alcohol-involved accidents among 18- to 20-year-old drivers dropped 31 percent.

In January 1972, Michigan lowered its drinking age to 18 and raised it back to 21 in December 1978. A study conducted by the Highway Research Institute at the University of Michigan analyzed a random sample of 20 percent of all reported accidents in Michigan from January 1972 to December 1979. The study concluded that alcohol-involved accidents among 18- to 20-year-old drivers were reduced 31 percent during the first 12 months after the drinking age was raised from 18 to 21 in December 1978.

In another study, made after Illinois raised its minimum legal drinking age in January 1980 from age 19 to 21 years, data for single-vehicle, nighttime, male driver involvements occurring between 8 p.m. and 3 a.m. were used as a surrogate for alcohol-involved accidents. This study comparing 1980 to 1979 accident data concluded that raising the legal drinking age law was effective in reducing the single-vehicle, nighttime, male driver involvements for drivers age 19 and 20. For 1980, the percentage of reduction attributable to the law change was 8.8 percent.

The Michigan and Illinois studies looked at all accidents -- fatal, personal injury, and property damage. Another study, conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, using data from the Fatal Accident Records System (FARS) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, looked at nine states which raised their legal minimum age. Eight of the nine states experienced a reduction in nighttime fatal crash involvement among drivers in the affected age group: the average annual reduction was 28 percent.

That was in 1978. In a more recent example, New Jersey raised its drinking age from 19 to 21 last year. While it's too early for a full reckoning of the impact the preliminary results are very encouraging. The New Jersey Office of Highway Safety reports that in the first half of 1983, after the law change, the number of drunk drivers 17-20 years of age who were involved in fatal crashes dropped 58 percent compared to an equivalent period in 1982. While this change can not be attributed solely to the new drinking age law, the increased drinking age clearly was an important factor.

As a result of findings such as these, at least 26 states have raised their minimum legal drinking age.

The Safety Board is in good company in our recommendation to increase the drinking age. Every major organization concerned with youth and highway safety, from the PTA to the National Safety Council, has said the same thing. Likewise, the American Medical Association and the American College of Emergency Physicians -- those who regularly see the victims of teenage drunk driving -- have endorsed a drinking age of 21. The Presidential Commission Against Drunk Driving recently called on all states that have not already done so to adopt age-21 laws. Congress in 1982 urged all states to increase the drinking age to 21.

A more compelling endorsement is contained in the actions of other states. Since the Safety Board first issued its recommendation in July 1982, nine states have raised their drinking age, including four that have gone to 21. Among those four is your neighbor Oklahoma. Additionally, Nebraska's legislature last week approved an increase to age 21 which the Governor is expected to sign. *signed 2-9-84*

Drunk driving is a catastrophe throughout the nation, but for you the story has an added, deadly element. As residents and legislators in an area where states with disparate drinking ages face one another, you are in the grip of a crisis compounded. Not only is there the danger on your roads of Kansas teenagers permitted by law to drink and then drive, but you are also subject to an influx of youth from other states seeking the same dubious prerogative.

By the beginning of next year, three of the four states which surround Kansas will have drinking ages of 21. The lure of the lower age limit for beer prompts many young residents of these states to drive farther than they would if they could make legal purchases at bars or stores in their own state. According to information we have received from local police departments, this is especially true in the heavily populated Kansas City area. The farther they have to drive after drinking, the more likely they are to be involved in an accident. As a result, on roads near these borders, the percentage of drivers who are young and alcohol-impaired is particularly high. The danger, of course, is on both sides of the line, since many of these young drivers are back in their own state before they come to grief.

This tragic phenomenon is found wherever there are contiguous states with differing drinking ages. Massachusetts, for example, currently has a drinking age of 20, but in New York it is 19. New York's Bureau of Alcohol and Highway Safety reports that while about 31 percent of the drinking drivers from Massachusetts who crashed in New York were not legal drinkers in their home state, this group represents only 5 percent of the licensed drivers in Massachusetts. Thus, underage Massachusetts drivers on New York highways have more than six times as many accidents as their numbers would otherwise dictate.

The best answer to this problem, as I have said, is for every state in the nation to adopt an age-21 law. While it is important to eliminate the cross-border traffic in pursuit of alcohol, it is vital as well to preserve the benefits within the state that a higher drinking age provides. Establishing an age-21 law in every state would accomplish both objectives.

I recognize that raising the drinking age to 21 will not eliminate all of the nearly 5,000 fatalities caused by persons under age 21 who drink and drive. However, based on the experience of states which have already raised the drinking age, we can expect to save about 1,250 lives yearly if all states set their drinking age at 21. That is approximately the size of my home town in Arkansas. In fact, if the drinking age had been 21 for that 3-year period I mentioned earlier, and if Kansas averaged the same reduction as experienced in other States, 55 of your fellow citizens might be alive today. Some have argued that we should not deny young people the privilege of drinking. However, I feel that 1,250 lives is far too precious a price to pay for the license of 18-, 19- and 20-year-olds to drink. I urge you to approve a uniform drinking age of 21 for all alcoholic beverages in Kansas.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This concludes my prepared remarks. I will be happy to answer any questions you or the members of the Committee may have.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS

Raising the Minimum Legal Drinking Age

Presented by the Kansas Highway Patrol
(Sergeant William A. Jacobs)

February 13, 1984

APPEARED IN SUPPORT

The Patrol appears in support of the concept of raising the minimum legal drinking age to enhance the safety of all motorists on Kansas highways.

Accident statistics in Kansas indicate that drinking drivers ages 18 through 20 are responsible for a significant number of traffic fatalities. In calendar year 1982, there were 1,170 alcohol related accidents involving drivers in the age group 18-20. Thirty-eight of those were fatal accidents that killed 44 persons which is 8.8% of all traffic fatalities in 1982. The following chart is comprised of statistics recorded in calendar year 1982.

ALL ACCIDENTS-1982

| <u>All Accidents</u> | <u>Fatal Accidents</u> | <u>Persons Killed</u> | <u>Persons Injured and Possibly Injured</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 62,263 | 436 | 498 | 59,798 |

ALCOHOL RELATED ACCIDENTS INVOLVING DRIVERS AGE 18 THROUGH 20 - 1982

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Number Accidents</u> | <u>Number of Fatal Accidents</u> | <u>Persons Killed</u> | <u>Persons Injured and Possibly Injured</u> |
|------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 18 | 376 | 11 | 16 | 364 |
| 19 | 410 | 16 | 17 | 348 |
| 20 | <u>384</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>265</u> |
| Total | 1,170 | 38 | 44 | 977 |
| Percent | 1.9% | 8.7% | 8.8% | 1.6% |

The Patrol also recorded 366 arrests of persons age 18 through 20 for driving under the influence in 1982. The following chart indicates that this was 11.2% of the Patrol's total arrests for that offense in 1982.

Atch. B

D. W. I. ARRESTS BY KHP - 1982

| <u>All</u> <u>Arrests</u> | Age <u>18</u> | Age <u>19</u> | Age <u>20</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 3,269 | 90 | 132 | 144 | 366 | 11.2% |

In conclusion, we wish to emphasize our support for legislation that would reduce the number of drinking drivers on Kansas highways. Raising the drinking age would also prevent persons from states that have a higher minimum age restriction at this time, from coming into our state and legally purchasing the product.

Death Came of 'Just Being Kids'

November 6, 1982 Wichita Eagle-Beacon

Alcohol Helped To Turn Mirth Into Tragedy

By Beth Rosenberg
Staff Writer

Warm spring air and sunshine teased the drying grass. This senior Gyp Day promised good times, memories to keep with prom corsages and varsity letters.

One of the girls borrowed her boyfriend's Jeep, and the others took turns driving through Sim Park. The top was down. The beer was cold. They should have been in school.

As with so many West High seniors before them, their six exuberant voices rang through the trees as they thought of graduation, friendship and college. But that Friday afternoon, tradition ended in tragedy.

They whizzed through the puddle and enjoyed the cool spray of leftover rain. Suddenly they swerved. A sapling was in the way. The Jeep hesitated on two wheels. The four-wheel drive climbed a small bank. It flipped.

ONE DIED, leaving the others to nurse among them a broken leg, cracked jaw, dislocated elbow, fractured neck bones, a concussion.

And unhappy memories.

In the six months since the accident, the driver has blacked out most of what happened. The girl who drank only root beer suffered the most severe injuries and couldn't attend her first semester of college. One girl mostly drinks water when she goes out, another gets nervous about cruising with friends and a third wouldn't talk about it.

Lori Kifer was in the driver's seat. She can't remember most of what happened after breakfast that day, she says. Sometimes she's glad.

● ACCIDENT, 16A, Col. 1

● ACCIDENT, From 1A

She does recall how much fun she and her friends had taking turns at the wheel. They had stopped at a local convenience store to pick up two six-packs of Malt Duck, a purplish, cereal-malt drink. She remembers driving a little faster than the 20 mph speed limit in the park, hitting the puddle and losing control of the Jeep.

But those are the only memories she has of the accident on May 7 that killed Joyce Tyree, 17. Lori, Dana Shirkey and Sarah Sloss, all 17, and Cindy Bohlken and Peggy Watson, both 18, were injured.

Lori, a pretty blonde, had downed two or three bottles. Not enough to make her too tipsy or to bring back visions of the gory driver's education warning films she'd later think about. The accident was one of circumstance, she says. Just one of those things that could have happened anyway.

BUT SINCE the accident, the 18-year-old freshman at Wichita State Universtiy has given up her once-in-awhile drink at parties with free-flowing kegs.

"I've learned that you can't just go have fun without thinking about things," said Lori, who spent two days in the hospital with a dislocated elbow and head injury. "The accident has brought me away from alcohol. If that was the cause or not, it's gotten me away from it."

Lori and her parents have returned to the open arms of the church to help cleanse themselves of the unwelcomed disorder that so quickly intruded upon their lives.

"It was the worst thing I've ever gone through," said her mother, Phyllis. "I haven't completely gotten over it yet."

MANY TIMES they've thought back to last Thanksgiving when Doyle Kifer quit drinking even a social beer so he and his wife could be examples for their three children.

In the days after the accident, Lori returned to school and felt silent stares follow her down the corridors. The blame — more imagined than real — seemed as heavy as the weight that Atlas shouldered. One time she fled for the comfort of home. She couldn't face the other kids.

"Joyce's death has been hard to accept and live with," said Lori, who regularly visits with Joyce's mother. "I've kind of overcome it, but a day won't go by that I don't think of her or her mom."

Lori and her parents say she was charged with vehicular homicide and sentenced to six months' probation. Court officials and police would not discuss the charges because Lori was a juvenile at the time of the wreck.

Peggy Watson didn't like the taste of beer. She drank root beer that day.

She expected the others would drink, but she wasn't nervous. It was the final get-together before graduation.

But at half past noon, the quiet, dark-haired teenager asked to take the wheel. Someone else did, too. The driver didn't listen.

"I offered to drive because she couldn't handle it. She insisted. Fifteen minutes later the accident happened."

Peggy, now 18, spent the next two weeks in the hospital with a broken leg and upper jaw. Some facial bones were replaced with plastic and she awaits root canal work for teeth that were knocked out. For Christmas, she wants an end to the frequent doctors' visits and constant regrets.

"I should have told her to let me drive or get out (myself). I know that if I would have stayed in school, this wouldn't have happened."

PEGGY WANTED to study business administration at WSU this fall and hoped one day to open a restaurant. Now she stays home on the sofa with her basset hound in her lap, eyes glued to afternoon soap operas.

"I wasn't drinking and got the worst of the accident," the teenager said. "I'm messed up for life. I've got facial bones that are plastic and four years of braces on my teeth that aren't worth nothing."

Her mother, Alice, thanks God her daughter is still alive.

It wasn't more than a few weeks ago that Dana Shirkey saw a group of kids driving around town with the car top down. The image was frighteningly like that day last May. Before the feeling of panic. Before the quiet turned to chaos. Before the police and ambulances.

"I just wanted to stop and tell them to be careful. I still refuse to ride in a Jeep. I can't bring myself to ride in one."

The 18-year-old Kansas Newman College accounting major recalls the game of musical chairs in the driver's seat of the Jeep. No one was really bombed — it didn't occur to them that they might be. But as morning turned to afternoon, "everyone got crazier."

"I feel really bad about it happening. It's nobody's fault, but I wish it wouldn't have happened. I don't feel I can blame anyone. I sometimes just think and wish it hadn't happened and everything would be normal again."

Atch. c

D.

PUBLIC HEARING
KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TOPEKA, KANSAS

February 13, 1984

Representative R. H. Miller
Chairman

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM N. PLYMAT, SR.
OF Des Moines, Iowa

Member of the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving (1982-1983); Member of the Iowa Governor's Task Force on Drunk Driving (1982-1983); Member of the National Commission Against Drunk Driving (1984); Member of the Iowa Commission on Substance Abuse (1978-1985); Board Chairman Emeritus, Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company; Executive Director of the American Council on Alcohol Problems; Lawyer; Retired Iowa State Senator (1973-1977)

The question which confronts you is whether Kansas should ban the sale of beer for persons under 21. Beer is the beverage of choice for persons under that age. One can become just as impaired with beer as with hard liquor or wine. In fact, telling the youth of your state that beer is o.k. while hard liquor and wine are not is to tell them somehow beer is not dangerous. But the alcohol in a can of beer is equal to a shot of liquor.

This country has become deeply concerned about the drinking driving toll. And a large majority of our citizens want a legal age of 21. The Gallup poll says that 77% want it.

The next question is whether youth under 21 are a prime target for action. And they are. In 1981, 4884 persons died from alcohol related highway crashes in which the driver was under 21. This represents 23.6% of all alcohol related fatalities. Drivers under 21 represent about 10% of all licensed drivers. and drivers under 21 drive about 9% of the vehicle miles driven. Of 650,000 injuries due to drunken driving, 130,000 are teenagers.

The Surgeon General of the United States reported that the life expectancy has improved over the last 75 years for every age group except one - the 15 to 24-year olds. The leading cause of death for these youth is drunk driving.

Let me tell you the facts in my state of Iowa. I feel sure that the figures in your state will be very similar. In 1982, 176,053 licensed drivers in the 17-20 age group came up with 46 drinking drivers in fatal accidents killing 53. At the same time the 21-24 age group with 24-24

Atch. 0

age group with 24,573 more licensed drivers produced 36 such drivers killing 45.

In 1983 with 169,242 licensed drivers in the 17-20 age group the number of drinking drivers in fatal accidents rose to 56 killing 61 persons. At the same time the 21-24 group with 192,251 licensed drivers with 23,009 more licensed drivers had 42 drinking drivers killing 48 persons.

The records of those over 21 show much lower tolls. I attach to this statement a copy of a letter to the Editor which appeared in the January 1, 1984 Des Moines Register showing the facts. From this we can see that our most serious problem is with those under 21.

On May 12th Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation sent a telegram to Governor Branstad of Iowa saying:

"I strongly urge you to support legislation in Iowa to raise the drinking age to 21 for all alcoholic beverages. The Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving, National Transportation Safety Board, National Safety Council, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives, National Parent Teachers Association, American Medical Association, and the Congress of the United States all endorse raising the drinking age to 21 for all alcoholic beverages. Competent research also supports this action.

"Based on the experience of the states that have raised their minimum drinking age, there is no doubt that alcohol related crashes in the 18-21 year old age group can be significantly reduced by raising the legal drinking age.

The record is clear. In the states that have raised their legal age to 21 there has uniformly been a reduction in loss of life and limb. Many states have recently gone up to 21 including New Jersey, Maryland, Alaska, and Oklahoma and now Nebraska has passed a bill raising from 20 to 21, and the Governor has promised to sign it. We have border problems with Illinois and Nebraska due to their high legal age levels and I am sure you have such problems between your state and Missouri and Oklahoma and soon with Nebraska.

At the time of preparing this statement I did not have a chance to see your bill. But I am told it would provide for a ban on carry-out with on-sales continued. I would just like to say that is not the way the country is going. If a youth drinks in a bar he will be driving home and there is a 30% impairment in driving ability with one beer in the case of a man over average body weight. I hope your bill will be amended to cure that difference. I'm told that Wisconsin which was never expected to move has gone to a uniform 19 as has South Dakota in the last few days. I'm sure the people of your state with its long record of alcohol concerns is not in favor of any sale of beer to those under 21 either in stores or bars.

I am attaching to my statement a copy of my testimony in Iowa last Thursday and want to call your attention especially to the third page. There is great danger for youth under 21 becoming addicted to alcohol

for purely physical reasons due to the fact that a section of the brain has not physically matured until about that age. I am attaching a copy of two articles that explain this addiction danger for youth.

Alcoholism is a fatal disease unless arrested by complete non-use of alcohol. About 10% of those who wind up alcoholic become addicted almost from the first drink. And if addicted only a minority ever find permanent sobriety. And the rest die sooner or later. I hope you will take time to read my articles and then conclude that you have a moral responsibility to do all you can to help protect your youth from the hell of alcoholism and death.

Some complain that those of us who seek age 21 should simply turn out attention to the alcoholism problem and help alcoholics recover. I do that too. At present I am Chairman of the Board of the Schick-Shadel Hospitals of Seattle, Fort Worth, and Santa Barbara. These hospitals counter-condition alcoholics to each alcoholic drive thus ending their craving for alcohol. And they have unusual added therapy. They have treated over 25,000 persons in the last 30 years. And 70% of those treated one year later have not taken a single drinking. Fifty percent of the other 30% make it during second treatment. I spend one week each month in Los Angeles in the work of these hospitals. I'm just as concerned as anyone on alcoholism. But I also believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of "cure".

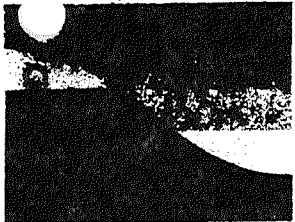
KANSAS-1982

| Driver Ages | <u>No. of licensed Drivers in Age Group in Kansas</u> | <u>No. of Drinking Drivers Involved in Fatal Accidents</u> | <u>No. of Persons Killed in Those Accidents</u> |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| 17-20 | 134,357 | 41 | 47 |
| 21-24 | 129,334 | 35 | 42 |

IOWA-1982

| Driver Ages | <u>No. of Licensed Drivers in Age Group in Iowa</u> | <u>No. of Drinking Drivers Involved in Fatal Accidents</u> | <u>No. of Persons Killed in Those Accidents</u> |
|-------------|---|--|---|
| 17 -- 20 | 176,053 | 46 | 53 |
| 21 -- 24 | 200,626 | 36 | 45 |
| 25 -- 34 | 454,741 | 39 | 44 |
| 35 -- 44 | 309,977 | 19 | 21 |
| 45 -- 54 | 245,451 | 9 | 10 |
| 55 -- 64 | 244,251 | 8 | 8 |
| 65 and over | 257,765 | 0 | 0 |

2/1/84
Original to Gov
Copies to all
Senators & Reps
on letterhead
JG



January 31, 1984

OFFICE OF: Chief E.C. Dinovo
POLICE DEPARTMENT
(712) 328-4701

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa
State House
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

I would like to take a moment of your time to address a very important issue for the Police Department and the citizens of Council Bluffs. The matter concerns the legal drinking age and the closing hours of taverns in our state.

The geographic location of our city is rather unique when compared to other Iowa cities, as we boarder on a metropolitan area with a population of over a half a million people. This high volume of citizens next door to our community results in added law enforcement problems, to say the least, and we feel that one of the major causes of our increase in the number of alcohol related accidents and criminal activity in our city is the disparity in the legal drinking age and the tavern closing hours between our state and that of Nebraska. As you know, Nebraska's legal drinking age is set at twenty and our state at nineteen. Also, their tavern closing time is one hour earlier than Iowa's. These added incentives have caused a great influx of their citizens to our community for the purpose of consuming alcoholic beverages. While this may be good for the tavern business, it is certaining not in the best interest of our citizens and law enforcement.

This past year we have experienced a 75% increase in fatal accidents and a 16% increase in personal injury accidents. Approximately one-half of all of our fatalities last year were alcohol related. Out of 448 arrests made in the Council Bluffs area for driving under the influence, 35% were residents of Nebraska. Also this past year, the police department has investigated an increased number of aggravated assaults and disturbances at our taverns; 15.7% of our arrests for assault and 27.2% of all arrests for intoxication and disorderly were residents of Nebraska.

(OVER)

The above facts relate the problems that we currently face, but looking towards the future doesn't provide much hope for the well being of our citizens as the Nebraska legislature is currently contemplating raising their legal drinking age to twenty-one and it appears that it will be approved. This, no doubt, will compound our problems and put an additional burden on our department.

The recent proposals to suspend the licenses of our teenagers if they are found driving with a certain percentage of alcohol in their systems may be of some help, but it is not a panacea. This conclusion is based on the fact that there has been a substantial increase in the number of people being arrested for driving while their license is under suspension. Therefore, it appears that the taking away of a driver's license may not be that effective.

In closing, I would like to ask for your support for legislation that would raise the legal drinking age to twenty-one and to ask for and/or support to legislation that would allow boarder cities to regulate their own tavern closing hours. The City of Council Bluffs is in such a financial bind at this time that it is not possible to increase our police personnel to cope with these problems, and we need your help to make our city a safer place to live and grow.

I would also like to make one last comment, and that is if our legislative bodies do not foresee this as a problem throughout the state and they fail to act in a responsible manner to help us protect the health and well being of our citizens then some consideration should be given to boarder cities by way of granting a greater portion of the revenue derived from liquor sales for the purpose of subsidizing law enforcement.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,



Edward C. Dinovo
Chief of Police

ECD/jg

cc: State Senators
State Representatives



Lower drinking age, higher fatality rate?

Gov. Terry Branstad was quoted in your paper as saying that if a limited death penalty law would "save one innocent life, it is justified." Yet at the same time he indicated he still opposes raising the legal drinking age to 21, saying that a 21-year-old drinking age probably would not help too much in cutting down traffic accidents among younger adults.

None of us who are working to get our Legislature to raise the legal age contend that such will totally resolve the problem. But take a look at the record of fatal drinking-driver crashes killing people in 1982 in Iowa.

| Driver Ages | No. of Licensed Drivers in Age Group in Iowa | No. of Drinking Drivers Involved in Fatal Accidents | No. of Persons Killed in Those Accidents |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| 17 - 20 | 176,053 | 46 | 53 |
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| 45 - 54 | 245,451 | 9 | 10 |
| 55 - 64 | 244,251 | 8 | 8 |
| 65 and over | 257,765 | 0 | 0 |

The foregoing shows our worst group is the 17- to 20-year-old group. With 24,600 fewer licensees than the 21-24 age group, they kill more people. And note that past age 24, the problem is small on a yearly basis.

Many of us are hopeful that if the governor takes time to study all the evi-

dence, he will join all the groups that urge a legal drinking age of 21. . . .

An important reason to raise the legal age of drinking, in addition to the traffic problem, is that until about age 21, a section of the brain (the hypothalamus) of a youth that controls all non-conscious body functions does not physically mature, and when that portion of the brain is exposed extensively to alcohol, in very many cases it leads to addiction to alcohol. . . .

I do agree that states should not be threatened with loss of highway funds for failure to pass 21-year drinking-age laws. It should be a matter of conscience, not consequences. — William N. Plymat Sr., 2908 Patricia Drive, Des Moines.

REPRINTED BY THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS, 2908 Patricia Drive, Des Moines, IA, 50322. Write for additional information on the AGE 21 issue and a free copy of its quarterly publication, THE AMERICAN ISSUE.

January 1, 1984.

SUMMARY

Drinking/Driving

During 1982, 37.6 percent of the fatal accidents and 39.2 percent of the fatalities were alcohol-related. Alcohol involvement is more apt to occur, and more likely to be reported, in fatal accidents than in non-fatal accidents.

In Iowa during 1982 drivers involved in fatal accidents were not required by law to submit to an alcohol test. Testing for alcohol in both fatal and all accidents was based on "probable cause," as determined by the investigating officer. Care should be used in comparing the yearly percentages of alcohol-related fatal accidents due to fluctuations in the number of reports received.

Iowa alcohol-related accident figures should not be compared to states where an alcohol test is mandatory.

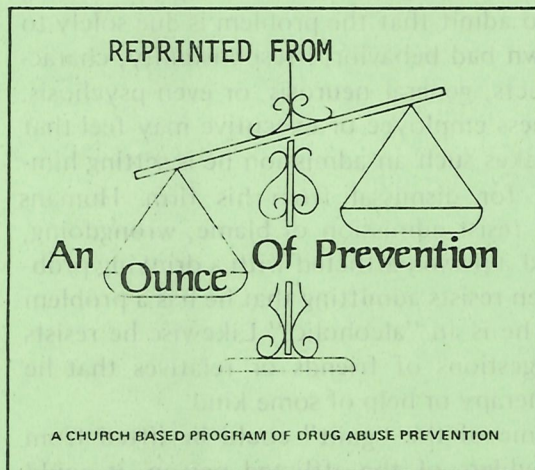
Age of Drinking Drivers Involved in Accidents

| Driver Age | All Accidents | | Fatal Accidents | | | | Injury Accidents | | Property Damage Accidents | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| | No. of Drivers | % | No. of Drivers | % | Persons* Killed | % | No. of Drivers | % | No. of Drivers | % |
| 15 & younger | 17 | 0.3 | 2 | 1.2 | 2 | 1.1 | 9 | 0.4 | 6 | 0.2 |
| 16 | 116 | 2.3 | 4 | 2.4 | 4 | 2.1 | 62 | 2.6 | 50 | 2.0 |
| 17 | 232 | 4.5 | 15 | 9.1 | 19 | 10.1 | 108 | 4.5 | 109 | 4.3 |
| 18 | 298 | 5.8 | 7 | 4.2 | 9 | 4.8 | 138 | 5.7 | 153 | 6.0 |
| 19 | 437 | 8.5 | 14 | 8.5 | 14 | 7.4 | 213 | 8.8 | 210 | 8.3 |
| 20 | 409 | 8.0 | 10 | 6.1 | 11 | 5.9 | 191 | 7.9 | 208 | 8.2 |
| 21 | 359 | 7.0 | 5 | 3.0 | 5 | 2.7 | 185 | 7.7 | 169 | 6.7 |
| 22 | 327 | 6.4 | 7 | 4.2 | 13 | 6.9 | 163 | 6.7 | 157 | 6.2 |
| 23 | 245 | 4.8 | 15 | 9.1 | 18 | 9.6 | 116 | 4.8 | 114 | 4.5 |
| 24 | 228 | 4.5 | 9 | 5.5 | 9 | 4.8 | 124 | 5.1 | 95 | 3.7 |
| 25-34 | 1,443 | 28.2 | 39 | 23.6 | 44 | 23.4 | 686 | 28.4 | 718 | 28.3 |
| 35-44 | 502 | 9.8 | 19 | 11.5 | 21 | 11.2 | 221 | 9.1 | 262 | 10.3 |
| 45-54 | 245 | 4.8 | 9 | 5.5 | 10 | 5.3 | 100 | 4.1 | 136 | 5.4 |
| 55-64 | 142 | 2.8 | 8 | 4.8 | 8 | 4.3 | 57 | 2.4 | 77 | 3.0 |
| 65-74 | 74 | 1.4 | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 27 | 1.1 | 47 | 1.8 |
| 75 & older | 11 | 0.2 | 0 | -- | 0 | -- | 4 | 0.2 | 7 | 0.3 |
| Not stated | 38 | 0.7 | 2 | 1.2 | 4 | 2.1 | 13 | 0.5 | 23 | 0.9 |
| Total no. of drivers | 5,123 | | 165 | | | | 2,417 | | 2,541 | |

* Figure includes all persons killed in accidents involving a drinking driver of the given age. NOTE: The figures do not add up to the total of 188 persons killed in alcohol-related accidents in 1982. For instance, a person killed in an accident involving both a 17 year-old drinking driver and a 21 year-old drinking driver would be included in both age categories. A person killed in an accident involving two 19 year-old drinking drivers, however, would be listed only once. (The percentage of persons killed by a given-age driver is based on the total of 188 persons killed in alcohol-related crashes.)

UNIT X: THE ADDICTIVE NATURE OF ALCOHOL

by William Plymat, Sr.



The author is Chairman of the Board Emeritus of Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company, 1111 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, Iowa, 50265, which paid initial production costs for the 225 page manual, "An Ounce of Prevention." The manual is available at \$27.95 from the publisher, Christian Civic Foundation, 3426 Bridgeland Drive, Bridgeton, Mo., 63044. See page 5 for more information.

Addiction to alcohol is buried deep in the subconscious mind, due to associations, ideas, and thoughts implanted over gradually increasing usage of alcohol. The user, in effect, loses in the end any possible ability to decide whether to use or not use this drug. Much educational material fails to reveal that no common agreement exists on the causes of addiction to alcohol, which we most often call alcoholism. This lesson will attempt to shed light on the addictive nature of America's most widely used and abused drug.

Many views have been voiced about why a minority of our citizens become addicted. About 10% of those who become addicted say they became that way almost from the first drink, while the rest required varying amounts of time—most often ten years or more of increasing drinking. We know that people with a variety of mental problems turn to alcohol to alleviate their frustrations in life. Yet evidence shows that people from some genetic backgrounds seem especially susceptible to addiction, and those from other such backgrounds are low in susceptibility. It is contended by some that those whose bodies react to sugar in one way are easily addicted, while those with other reactions are not.

Mounting evidence reveals that heredity plays a role. It is still arguable whether this is due to a learned response from the previous generation or biological factors. And it even has been conten-

ded by some that a hormonal factor is present—and that very few bald-headed males become alcoholics.

Dr. James W. Smith, Medical Director of the Schick-Shadel Hospital in Seattle, which has a 40-year record of successfully treating alcoholics, contends that the incidence of color-blindness in alcoholics is greater than in the general population; that blood group "A" is found in alcoholics more often than in the general population; that a disproportionately high percentage of alcoholics are unable to taste the chemical phenolthiocarbimide; that alcoholics in contrast to non-alcoholics show abnormalities in adrenal gland function, regulation of blood pressure, metabolism of glucose; that two enzymes produced in the liver have been found to be at different levels in the case of alcoholics in contrast to non-alcoholics; and that alcoholics break down one amino acid to one abnormal end product while non-alcoholics break the acid down to a normal end product.

All this points to the possibility, if not probability, that those who become "hooked" on alcohol may be physically different from those who do not. No test can tell a person whether he will become "hooked" if he uses this drug.

IRRESPONSIBLE USE?

It is important for us to realize that those in the alcoholic beverage trade would like everyone to believe that all addiction to alcohol is just a matter of conscious irresponsible use of

alcohol. That takes them "off the hook." They would like us to believe that if one is not neurotic, psychotic, or possessed of bad personality, and in fact has a high I.Q., good education, strong will power, and perhaps a reasonable amount of general moral values, he or she can use alcohol with no real danger—and in turn he or she can stop using alcohol at any time if that should be a future desire. Those in the trade may correctly believe that a large majority of our youth would believe they could pass such a "test." Who will agree that he is neurotic, psychotic, and possessed of a bad personality? And who will believe they have the other suggested characteristics? Those in the industry would like everyone to ignore the addictive nature of the drug alcohol and the fact that conscious will can be ended by a continued use of this drug. This factor needs to be understood and explored.

RESEARCH ON GENETIC FACTORS

Much research needs to be done on the physical aspects of alcoholism and other drug addictions. A doctor who was a pioneer in concerns about alcohol addiction said the cause was an "allergy of the body and an obsession of the mind." The *Washington Post* of Sunday, July 2, 1978, carried an article under the title: "Alcoholism May Be Linked to Heredity." It was authored by Barbara J. Katz, who was formerly a writer with the *National Observer* and the *Washington Post*, who writes frequently on scientific and social issues. She reported that the same rates of alcoholism were found for separated children raised with adoptive parents. In the largest study carried out in Denmark, between 1970 and 1976, Dr. Donald Goodwin, then a professor of psychiatry at Washington University in St. Louis, found that sons of alcoholics were about four times as likely to be alcoholics as were sons of non-alcoholics. And this was so, even though the sons of alcoholics had no exposure to the alcoholic biologic parent after the first few weeks of life. Ms. Katz said: "Something in one's genetic makeup, in short, may predispose one toward becoming an alcoholic."

THE MATTER OF GUILT

Many alcoholics resist efforts of family

members who try to persuade them to seek therapy. It appears they believe they are being asked to admit that the problem is due solely to their own bad behavior, irresponsibility, character defects, general neurosis, or even psychosis. A business employee or executive may feel that if he makes such an admission he is setting himself up for dismissal from his firm. Humans tend to resist admission of blame, wrongdoing, etc., and a person afflicted with a drinking problem often resists admitting that he has a problem or that he is an "alcoholic." Likewise he resists the suggestions of friends or relatives that he needs therapy or help of some kind.

If some of the "guilt" could be lifted from the shoulders of the afflicted person, it could lead to a willingness to admit the problem and seek a solution to it. If one were able to realize that while his or her own lack of character or responsibility are related to the problem, but that physiology, genetic origin, etc., also may be factors, that person then might relax enough to seek the needed therapy.

That is why calling the problem a "disease" was believed by many in the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous to help those afflicted to respond to invitations to accept help. To some degree it helped lift the burden of guilt from the victims. Some backlash has occurred from this concept. Some with drinking problems have continued to refuse help simply by taking the position that they have to continue with the problem because they have a "disease."

FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME

Nine years ago a young pediatric resident at the Seattle County Hospital was confounded by a group of infants whose development was impaired. She found that all six infants had mothers who were chronic alcoholics. Over an eight-month period she examined hospital birth records and identified 12 babies born to alcoholic mothers. She found that 80% were undersized at birth. She found five retarded, three borderline, and only two normal as a result of developmental tests. Her finds were published in 1970 and 1972 and were considered "dramatic."

Four years later, Kenneth L. Jones and David W. Smith, two University of Washington birth

defects specialists examined eight of the original subjects mentioned above and recognized a similar pattern of deformities in four of them. This resulted in much further study, and these results were published in June, 1973, in the British Medical Journal *Lancet*.

In the four years since the existence of the fetal alcohol syndrome (abbreviated to FAS) was recognized, further research has resulted in additional information. One-third to one-half of babies born to severely alcoholic mothers exhibit FAS. Some infants show a complete range of FAS characteristics, while others just a few.

The failures include inability to attain normal length and weight, unusually small head circumference. Fore-shortened eyelid openings are found in nearly all cases of FAS.

A study of 322 births at the Boston City Hospital in 1974 of babies born to women with a history of heavy drinking showed significantly more weight and length deficiency than those born to women who drank less. Other characteristics observed in FAS babies include mental deficiency, head and facial deformities, joint and limb abnormalities, cardiac defects, and central nervous system impairment exhibited in a weak grasp, poor eye and hand coordination, hyperactivity and sleep disturbances.

WARNINGS ISSUED

As public concern developed, Dr. Ernest P. Noble, head of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism took an interest in FAS. In June of 1977, he issued a warning to the nation that if a pregnant woman drinks 3 ounces of absolute ethanol a day she is at risk of bearing a child with an abnormality. He urged women who drink to drink less than that amount, and he did not undertake to state there was a safe level of drinking. This warning caused the alcoholic beverage industry to become concerned. It was clear that they were hostile to Dr. Noble continuing as head of this agency. In turn, it is believed pressures were built up that ultimately led to the termination of Dr. Noble as head of that agency.

In November, 1977, Commissioner Donald Kennedy of the Food and Drug Administration wrote a letter to the Director of the Bureau of

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, which has jurisdiction over labeling of alcoholic beverages. In this letter he said:

"I am writing this letter to request that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) initiate immediately whatever procedures are necessary to require the placement on the labeling of alcoholic beverages of a warning against consumption of excessive amounts of alcohol by pregnant women. . . .

"Quite frankly, if the FDA retained jurisdiction over the labeling of alcoholic beverages, it would waste no time in commencing proceedings to require labeling warnings; I hope that BATF, which now has exclusive responsibility for such labeling, will move promptly to address this serious health risk."

In February of 1979, the BATF announced that while it had considered issuing regulations requiring labeling of ingredients and warnings to pregnant women on beverage labels, it was going to defer this in favor of an educational campaign which would be directed to women of child-bearing age, with later consideration of labeling regulations if the educational campaign did not solve the problem.

The BATF issued a 254-page book as a vehicle for its public awareness campaign. It contains comments of three experts who were employed by it to evaluate the problem of FAS and proposals for label warnings. One of these was Dr. Judith Hall, a medical doctor who is a specialist in genetics and Director of the Division of Medical Genetics at Children's Orthopedic Hospital in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Hall agreed with the conclusions of the researcher, Kenneth L. Jones, and others, that the FAS exists and that the major adverse results are correct. But she went further. The report about her conclusions stated the following:

"In addition to the full-blown syndrome, she thinks it is probable that 'other more subtle deleterious effects occur in children whose mothers drink during pregnancy,' the most serious of which are those which affect the brain and central nervous system."

The report further said:

"Dr. Hall says, 'This second type of the ma-

ternal fetal alcohol spectrum has not yet been fully evaluated or delineated.' She cites research studies which indicate 'strong hints of behavioral differences, neurologic abnormalities, psychosocial illness. . . hyperactivity. . . in the offspring of moderate and binge drinking mother; however, long-term follow-up of the infants born to mothers using moderate and minimal amounts of alcohol or those born to binge drinkers has not yet been possible.'

Further quotes from Dr. Hall included the following:

" . . . we will see this second category of defects manifested in the children of those women who drank alcohol during pregnancy, perhaps even very small amounts or only during critical periods. . . The most susceptible period for detrimental effects of alcohol on the fetus is probably in early pregnancy. . . Since one of the major effects of alcohol is on the developing brain and the brain continues to grow, neurons migrate and cells develop through all three trimesters, it seems likely. . . that maternal alcohol consumption at any time during brain development could have an adverse effect."

The report then concluded:

"Dr. Hall concludes that, given the present state of knowledge, 'no minimum safe level of maternal alcohol consumption can be established at any time during pregnancy.' She believes that the most serious time for alcohol consumption may be during very early pregnancy, prior to making the diagnosis of pregnancy."

CONCERN BY OTHERS

The science editor of the *Chicago Tribune* authored a detailed article appearing in that paper in its September 13, 1977 issue under the title: "Alcohol, cigarets hit fetus like a 'sledgehammer!'" The article included the following:

"Research in the last four years has revealed that drinking and smoking by pregnant women are the two biggest preventable causes of birth defects today . . . The tragedy of the pickled fetus and the smoke-filled womb is causing an increasing number of experts to advise women to totally shun these toxic substances during pregnancy."

In the article, Dr. David Smith, Professor of

Pediatrics at the University of Washington in Seattle, and one of the first to identify the FAS was quoted as advising as follows:

"We now know clearly that alcohol is the most common teratogen (an agent that causes birth defects). It is time for prevention. We would advise any woman considering pregnancy or who already is pregnant to avoid alcohol altogether."

At another point in the article, the following appeared:

"Some babies have been born with alcohol on their breaths because their mothers were intoxicated when they went into labor."

Today the National Foundation/March of Dimes devotes itself to protecting the unborn and the newborn. Recently they have taken a keen interest in FAS and their leaflet now widely distributed carries the challenging title: "WHEN YOU DRINK, YOUR UNBORN BABY DOES TOO." In this leaflet the following statement appears:

" . . . if you have a drink—beer, wine, or hard liquor—your unborn baby has a drink too. And because he is so small, he is affected much faster than you are . . . That's the immediate effect. But alcohol can also have serious long-lasting effects on an unborn baby."

As we consider the preceding evolving information and its relationship to life styles . . . abstinence, moderate use of alcohol and heavy use . . . we are faced with what concerned citizens should consider doing about it. Is it possible that damage to the brain of the fetus may in some way "set up" the resulting child for addiction to alcohol in later life? Alcoholism in future generations may be the result of drinking today by women who do not realize what can happen to the fetus. Since the greatest damage may be during a time when the woman does not even know that she is already pregnant, the responsible woman will bear this in mind.

THE RELIGIOUS APPROACH

Many Christian families come to realize that they have a member in their midst who drinks considerably with resulting damage to the person and others. They begin to worry about his or her welfare and often try to "preach the gospel" and the life of Christ to that person and

draw him or her into church activities. Sometimes their efforts succeed and the person who has started on the downward path is really redeemed and brought thus into an abstinent way of life. Other times they fail and become frustrated because they believe that religion really should succeed and be the answer. They may fail only because of the powerful guilty feelings of the afflicted person who continues to resist.

When their efforts fail, families should not be discouraged themselves or pressure the victim into discouragement and further failure. They should extend compassion and a helping hand when possible and avoid criticism for what has happened in the past. Many who have resisted the religious approach have turned to Alcoholics Anonymous, sometimes because there they could feel more at home and comfortable during recovery with others who have had the same problem. There they come to realize that Alcoholics Anonymous is based on a spiritual program approached somewhat differently than might be approached in a conventional church, but which really acknowledges God as the person's source of strength. Sometimes they then return to the church of their youth or their family and become active workers for others.

Former U.S. Senator Harold Hughes of Iowa, who has become a national figure, is a noted example of this. Others who have been unable to respond either to the religious approach of the church or the somewhat similar approach of Alcoholics Anonymous have turned to other means of finding sobriety. They may go to hospitals with special therapy programs that attack the ad-

diction in other ways. Often they succeed in these hospitals, and then when free of the craving for alcohol finally return to the church and become active in religious work and helping others.

The Christian who seeks to help an alcoholic must refrain from any judgmental or self-righteous approach and seek to understand the problem which alcohol presents and the person with the problem. To establish rapport with the alcoholic, it may be wise for the person to suggest that while the alcoholic has his problem with alcohol, the helping Christian has had his problems in other areas which he has endeavored to face and may yet be seeking to solve. This may set the stage for effective communication by their being on an equal level with each other as imperfect humans. The first mission is to get the victim off the drug so his mind can function again. He should be encouraged in a kindly way to seek such help as will meet his needs. And pressure in that direction should be avoided, since it can easily result in resistance and impair communication.

We have been speaking of the attitude of a Christian toward one who has already become addicted. We often say that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. What can the Christian do to prevent this crippling addiction?

The viability of non-use can be just as attractive as use. It's important in today's drug oriented society to offer alternatives to the "chemical highs" of life.

One thing for sure: you can never become addicted if you never use the drug. It's worth considering!

NOTE: Extra copies of this article are available at 20¢ each from ACAP-- THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS, 2908 Patricia Drive., Des Moines,, Iowa, 50322, of which William N. Plymat is Executive Director. Another article by Mr. Plymat entitled, "A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO YOUTH--WHY YOU SHOULD NOT DRINK BEER, WINE, OR WHISKEY OR ANY OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BEFORE YOU ARE 21," (8 pages) is also available from ACAP at 20¢ each.

See other side of this page for additional information about the activities of ACAP and educational leaflets available in quantities from the above address.

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALCOHOLISM:

THE NATIONAL CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALCOHOL INFORMATION (A Division of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), Box 2345, Rockville, MD 20852

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM, 733 Third Ave., New York, New York 10017

THE CHRISTOPHER D. SMITHERS FOUNDATION, P. O. BOX 67, Mill Neck, N. Y. 11765

THE STATE ALCOHOLISM OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMISSION OF YOUR STATE. Address the Commission at the State Capitol in your state.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE FROM ACAP:

WHY YOU SHOULD NOT DRINK BEER, WINE, WHISKEY OR ANY OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE BEFORE YOU ARE 21--8 page article.

HALF DRUNK DRIVERS ARE DANGEROUS, TOO--4 page article

AMERICA'S WORST DRUG?--flyer

ALCOHOL'S EFFECT ON THE BRAIN--leaflet

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALCOHOL FOR YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY--yellow leaflet (Sold in quantities at 2¢ each)

ALCOHOL FACTS--5 ways drinking can hurt you--green leaflet (2¢ each in quantities)

A free sample copy of one or all of the above items will be sent on request. Write to:

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS
2908 Patricia Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50322

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL also publishes a quarterly news bulletin called THE AMERICAN ISSUE. A sample copy will be sent free on request. Subscription is \$2.00 for one year, \$3.50 for two years and \$5.00 for three years. THE AMERICAN ISSUE reports on various activities in the alcohol field.

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL (known as ACAP) is a non-profit corporation, organized under the laws of the District of Columbia. Its purpose is to provide a medium through which individuals, churches and social agencies may cooperate in a moral and scientific solution of the beverage alcohol problem in the United States and promote abstinence for the individual and group action to diminish the evils arising from the use of alcohol. It has been in operation since 1895 under different names. It is supported by voluntary contributions from individuals, from churches and other groups and from 30 state affiliates. If you would like to be active in the alcohol problems field and would like to know the address of the Council on Alcohol Problems in your state, write to the address above for information.

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO YOUTH

WHY YOU SHOULD NOT DRINK BEER, WINE, WHISKEY OR ANY OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
BEFORE YOU ARE 21.

By William N. Plymat, Sr.*

"If you have a good I.Q., good grades in school, strong will power, a reasonable amount of religious education, good character and health you can drink alcoholic beverages without any real danger of addiction or trouble."---RIGHT? WRONG! Let me tell you something you don't know about alcohol--why that quoted statement is WRONG and why you should not drink alcoholic beverages before you are 21.

WHAT ARE THE DANGERS IN THE USE OF ALCOHOL?

Many view alcoholism (or what I prefer to call alcohol addiction) as the only real danger that comes out of alcohol use. It is perhaps the greatest because it is fatal unless arrested by the person becoming a 100% abstainer. And the chance of achieving that if afflicted may only be 25% with the remainder sooner or later dying. There is no cure for it--just the chance of arresting it. There is no possible return to moderate drinking.

But there are many other dangers in the use of alcohol. Among them is the danger of drinking too much too fast. Alcohol hits the brain quickly and affects the ability to watch how much one is drinking. Within 35 miles of where I live, in a year starting in 1976 three young men (one 18 and two 19) drank too much too fast and died. Even under the influence of modest amounts of alcohol people under stress can lose their "cool" get violent and injure or kill others. Even two drinks (or two beers) can impair driving ability by 30% for a male of average body weight. Also there is evidence that youth seem more affected by modest amounts of alcohol in driving than older persons. And the numbers of youth involved in drinking traffic accidents has increased markedly in recent years especially in states that lowered their legal drinking ages. But since the greatest fear is about becoming "hooked" on alcohol I will focus on that in this article. But first...

DO WE REALLY HAVE A YOUTH DRINKING PROBLEM?

Dr. Ernest P. Noble who was head of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) told a U.S. Senate subcommittee on February 24, 1978 that his agency estimates that 3.3 million teenagers in the nation are having problems with alcohol, and that the proportion of teenagers who have experienced drunkenness has climbed from 19 per cent in 1966 to 45 percent in 1975. He said that the increase has been even steeper for teenage girls who over the last fifteen years are reaching almost the same level of drinking as teenage males. He claimed that the age of drinking in terms of the first experience with alcohol has decreased from an average of 13.4 years to 12.6 years. He said: "Every indication points to the conclusion that the teenagers in our country are not only drinking more, but they are drinking earlier and experiencing more problems with alcohol."

IS THERE A SPECIAL DANGER OF BECOMING AN ALCOHOLIC FOR THOSE UNDER 21?

For reasons not yet agreed upon, a sizeable minority of those under 21 will sooner or later become addicted if exposed to alcohol in more than modest amounts. And many

*Lawyer-retired Iowa State Senator, Vice Chairman of the Iowa Commission on Substance Abuse, Executive Director of the American Council on Alcohol Problems, and Board Chairman Emeritus of the Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company of Des Moines, Iowa.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO YOUTH

By William N. Plymat, Sr.

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will fast. There are no hard figures but conservative estimates are that at least one of ten who start to drink will become addicted and others will be injured or killed in accidents, fights or in other ways. Drugs affect people differently. It is reported that 15% can "chippy" heroin without getting addicted, but 85% will get addicted rather quickly. It would be nice if there were some physical or mental test that could tell a youth whether he or she would get addicted to alcohol if he or she use it frequently. Some believe those with the keenest minds, most creative abilities, and strongest memories are most vulnerable. There is no common agreement why most people who use alcohol do not become addicted to it while a sizeable minority do. And there is no common agreement on the causes of alcoholism.

Dr. Jorge Valles, M.D. is Director of the Alcoholism Unit, Treatment and Research Program of the U.S. Veterans Administration Hospital in Houston, Texas and Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry of the Baylor University College of Medicine. He is author of a book titled: "From Social Drinking to Alcoholism", and a highly regarded expert in the field. He claims there is a great danger of addiction for youth.

In Chapter X of this book which is titled: "The Autonomic nervous system and the hypothalamus" Dr. Valles explains his belief that alcoholism springs from the effect of alcohol on this part of the brain. Early in the Chapter he refers to the fact that he is typing the material for the Chapter which action is under the direction of his conscious mind, and then says: "While I am doing this, my heart is beating normally, my salivary glands are secreting saliva, my thyroid gland is performing its function, as are various other parts of my body. The physiological functions occur automatically, with no effort or direction on my part. I cannot order my adrenal glands to secrete or not to secrete, nor can I dictate the rate at which my heart beats. This is to say, within my body a highly complex series of vital operations occur independently, beyond my control. The regulatory agency of this complicated network of life-determining functions is the Autonomic nervous system and the hypothalamus."

Dr. Valles then speaks of the action of alcohol on this part of the brain saying: "...the hypothalamus receives not only the impact of the emotions but also the action of the alcohol, since in small amounts alcohol is a stimulant on the hypothalamus.. Let us briefly examine the situation of the hypothalamus and Autonomic nervous system in the years of adolescence, since this is the period in which the initial contact with alcohol customarily is made. Emotional immaturity is completely normal in adolescence, for it is the age at which the human being reaches the peak of hypothalamic imbalance. The ease with which the adolescent becomes intensely disturbed about something insignificant, the facility with which he vacillates between moods of depression and elation and between paroxysms of tears and uproarious laughter, the speed with which he fluctuates from one extreme to the other in the spectrum of human emotions have confounded, amused, annoyed, and worried us at various times. Parallel to this typical emotional instability is the imbalance of the Autonomic nervous system which is evidenced readily in the adolescent's tendency to blush or faint or grow pale or become nauseous often under circumstances of only slight emotional stress."

Why is it that an alcoholic who has had apparently successful therapy cannot return to social drinking? Those who believe that alcoholism is purely psychological so far as causes are concerned are hard put to explain why this is. Dr. Valles has an answer as follows:

"It is our conviction that this damage to the hypothalamus is the reason why the alcoholic cannot go back to social drinking; it very possibly may account for the chronic alcoholic's resistance to therapy under certain circumstances, regardless of his efforts or those of the therapist."

Now we should consider Dr. Valles' conclusion which is relevant to this writer's contention that youth should not drink alcoholic beverages until age 21 which ends his chapter on this subject:

"It is well to recall that alcohol is both toxic and stimulating, and when introduced on an already imbalanced hypothalamus, the results are tumultuous throughout the entire organism. Thus the younger the age at which an individual starts to ingest alcohol, the greater the chances that he will develop into a chronic alcoholic. For the action of the alcohol is channeled directly toward the adolescent's imbalanced hypothalamus and Autonomic nervous system, thereby obstructing his emotional maturation on both psychological and physiological levels.

The regular or frequent ingestion of alcohol during adolescence may produce a permanent imbalance of the hypothalamus and a concomitant irreversible malfunctioning of the autonomic nervous system, thereby leading to the development of chronic alcoholism. In brief, the direct action of the alcohol on the hypothalamus produces chronic alcoholism."

WHAT ARE OTHER POSSIBLE CAUSES OF ALCOHOLISM?

Dr. Valles, as indicated above, believes alcoholism is the result of the effect of the drug on the section of the brain..the hypothalamus. There are many other theories. In general psychiatrists view the alcoholism problem as being simply neurotic, psychotic in nature or one involving personality maladjustment and seem content to think that what we need to do is simply teach people to "drink responsibly" and to avoid trying to cope with the multitudes of human problems by using alcohol either to blot them out of mind, to delay facing them, or to attempt to alleviate the pangs of emotional disturbance that the problems create. But then we find people who view the problem as metabolic or involving other physical causes having to do with genetic origin, family traits, hormonal elements, liver difference, and abilities having to do with the metabolizing of glucose in the body..i.e. hypoglycemia. There seems to be a sort of war between theorists in these areas, each viewing those of a different point of view as being sort of "enemies".

HYPERINSULINISM AND ADDICTION TO ALCOHOL

E. M. Abrahamson, M.D. and A. W. Pezet are authors of a book entitled Body, Mind, and Sugar. Two quotes from the book are worth noting as a prelude to an examination of their contentions:

"Alcoholics Anonymous is not tied to either the physiological or psychological 'school' of causation. In the opinion of the late Dr. William Duncan Silkworth, once Physician-in-Charge of the A. A. Wing in Knickerbocker Hospital, New York City, alcoholism is due primarily to a 'physical allergy' but also to a 'mental obsession.'"

"The allergic basis for the physiological explanation of alcoholism is not by any means uniquely held by the medical advisers of Alcoholics Anonymous. But the exponents of this view admit that whatever may be behind the allergy is understood no more than any other allergy. In explaining the matter, Dr. Silkworth said, 'It would seem that through some defect, probably in the metabolism (underlining is author's)...'"

These authors believe that alcoholism is the result of the body's production of an excess of insulin. Their claims lead to a contention that there are few diabetic alcoholics. They point to a strange similarity of many of the symptoms of alcoholism in its hangover stages and of hyperinsulinism in its most definite forms. They suggest that alcoholics' strange craving for alcohol may be in essence a craving for sugar because the immediate effect upon the body of a dose of alcohol is similar to that of a dose of pure sugar. I was interested to hear from the director of the Door of Faith Mission in Des Moines that those who sought shelter at his Mission would go out and shovel snow, mow lawns, or perform other manual labor and return and buy large amounts of candy with what they earned. And further that the sugar useage at his facility was very large. At the same time; I observed many recovered alcoholics whose use of candy was very high.

ARE THERE OTHER METABOLIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ALCOHOLICS AND NON-ALCOHOLICS?

Dr. James W. Smith, M.D. is Director of the Schick-Shadel Hospital in Seattle, Washington which hospital has helped over 25,000 alcoholics over a 40 year period. It has a very successful therapy program which involves counter-conditioning to the smell and taste of alcohol. He makes the following statement in his lecture to his patients "Research over the last few years has indicated that alcoholism may soon be recognized as a metabolic rather than a psychiatric disease". He points out many physical differences that exist between alcoholics and non-alcoholics. Here are some of them:

- "(1) Alcoholics break down one amino acid to one abnormal end product and non-alcoholics break the acid down to a normal end product.
- (2) Two enzymes produced in the liver were found to be at different levels in the case of alcoholics in contrast to non-alcoholics.
- (3) When the livers of apparently "normal social drinkers" were found to be damaged by carbon tetrachloride poisoning, by an unusually severe case of hepatitis, such persons' drinking pattern abruptly changed, and they began to pass rapidly through the step-by-step progression of drinking symptoms characteristic of the alcoholic.
- (4) The incidence of color blindness in alcoholics is greater than in the general population.
- (5) Blood group A is found in alcoholics more often than in the general population.
- (6) A disproportionately high percentage of alcoholics are unable to taste the chemical phenolthiocarbimide.
- (7) Alcoholics in contrast to controls (non-alcoholics) showed abnormalities in adrenal gland function, regulation of blood pressure, and metabolism of glucose. (underscoring by this author)
- (8) It has been found possible to convert a mouse into an alcohol-craving mouse simply by damaging its liver with carbon tetrachloride.

Dr. Smith contends many alcoholics develop a powerful craving for sweets once they give up their alcohol. He says this is the case in 40% of the cases.

A VIEW OF THE POWER OF CONDITIONING AND COUNTER CONDITIONING

Mr. Patrick J. Frawley, Jr. is a prominent Los Angeles business man who readily admits he was addicted to alcohol and fourteen years ago broke his addiction to alcohol at what was then called the Shadel Hospital in Seattle. He established Schick Laboratories, Inc. which purchased the Seattle Hospital and then established a companion hospital in Fort Worth, Texas and recently another in Santa Barbara, California. He claims to have spent more than \$5,000,000 in research on alcoholism. The Schick-Shadel Hospitals counter-condition to the taste and smell of alcohol and counter-conditioning is the foundation of over 30 Schick Centers which in a five day period (backed by a money back guarantee) break addiction to nicotine. He points to what he claims is the conditioning that goes on in the subconscious mind of the victims of both alcohol and tobacco. He contends that multitudes of favorable impressions are lodged in the subconscious memory as a result of constant drinking and smoking, and that those with the keenest memories are the most vulnerable. The memories of youth are usually more keen than those of older people. Are youth packing away a constantly increasing multitude of favorable impressions of the feelings they get from drinking which will ultimately divest them of the control of their conscious minds over their drinking? An insurance company requires a price (premium) for taking a risk of any kind. Are youth taking such a risk? Are you? If so who is paying you? Just nobody! Many contend that around 10% of all admitted alcoholics say they became alcoholics almost from the first drink, and that most freely admit they started substantial drinking in the teenage years.

NATIONALITY AND ADDICTION TO ALCOHOL

An important factor in alcoholism is one's ancestry. In the United States, those of Indian or Eskimo descent have the highest rate of alcoholism, and of the Caucasians, those of Irish ancestry have the highest rate. I was surprised when attending an International Alcoholism Congress in Dublin, Ireland to learn that 27% of the males in southern Ireland belong to a catholic total abstinence society--The Pioneers. In third place among the Caucasians are those of Scandinavian descent. Those of Oriental descent are still further down the scale, and in last place, with virtually no alcoholism in their midst, are jews. One can explain these differences in at least two ways. It may be due to physical differences (to me most likely) often involving genetic origin factors or it may be due to the life styles of the people and their education of offspring or lack of it. One interesting claim and explanation is that the kidneys of those who descend from ancestors living for generations in countries with much cloud cover and water (northern Europe) have kidneys that function differently from those who ancestors lived in the desert countries. The claim is that persons in these northern countries take on and pass liquids in greater quantity and speed. Since alcohol has a powerful diuretic effect, it is claimed that those of the north have powerful thirst mechanisms. As an example in the animal world it is claimed that when a desert fox can't get water he curls up and goes to sleep while the scandinavian fox goes crazy and claws his cage. The scandinavian fox takes on and passes thirty times as much liquid as does the desert fox of the same weight.

I have observed the extensive size and operation of the International Organization of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.) in Norway and Sweden which group promotes the life style of abstinence. They have large numbers of groups and large memberships.. Have they had great success there because alcohol is a great problem in those countries? Minnesota has a large scandinavian population and has, I believe, the largest number of facilities for alcoholic rehabilitation in our country. Is there a connection? Sweden and Norway are going so far as to prohibit alcoholic beverage advertising.

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Is there alcoholism in your family tree...ie. your father, grandfather, uncle or others? If so, your own personal risk is about four times average. Some studies have been reported that when twins born to alcoholic parent(s) were adopted in one case by a family where there was a pattern of drinking and another where there was none, both twins developed alcoholism which negated the idea that alcoholism is just a response pattern learned from parents.

IS THERE A HORMONAL FACTOR IN ALCOHOLISM?

A few years ago I heard the contention that there is a "hormone" factor in alcoholism and that there are few baldheaded male alcoholics. I began to observe my recovered alcoholic friends. To this date my observations have caused me to believe that there may be something to this. To be sure, there are bald-headed male alcoholics, but are they fewer in any significant way to the total in society? I know of no research on this. But it does seem to me that by study of a control group and observations at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings with head counts we might learn something of this possibility.

SOME PEOPLE ARE SENSITIVE TO ALL DRUGS--ARE YOU?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a society of recovering and recovered alcoholics that has helped multitudes reach total permanent sobriety. Although there are no hard figures as to their success rates nor how many frequently slip and go back to drinking, you will find many who have succeeded with their help. Visit one of their open meetings sometime. You will find a large percentage smoking heavily and the coffee pot going strong. It is evidence that most alcoholics are very sensitive to all drugs. I mean no special criticism of those who smoke or drink coffee excessively. No person smokes a cigarette and goes home and beats up his wife. But there is powerful evidence that smoking reduces longevity and often results in serious illness. Yet recovered alcoholics who have stopped drinking to protect and extend their lives often find it impossible to quit smoking and frequently never even try. It is believed that they often do not perceive the survival issue in smoking as they are forced to in the case of alcohol. Large amounts of coffee is admittedly bad for the heart. This does bring up a relevant side question. Do you smoke? Are you a heavy user of caffeine drinks such as coffee and the cola beverages? Do you find yourself with a sort of addictive personality? Do you get "hooked" on other things--ie. TV for example? Have you ever experienced a memory black-out after drinking or an inability to control the number of beers or drinks you may take in an evening? Do you find yourself developing a craving for alcohol or finding excuses for using alcohol on multitudes of occasions? Have you found difficulty in controlling the number of beers or drinks in and evening? If so, you are on the road to addiction! The best course is to stop drinking. In any event, is it not probable that when you reach full maturity around 21 you will be able to have a more mature attitude less dangerous than one you may have now? By drinking now are you setting yourself up to a pattern of heavy use if not addictive use? Think about it!

DOES SOCIETY KNOW SOMETHING THAT EXPERTS DON'T KNOW?

Why is 21 the legal drinking age in 14 states and for many decades? Why is it imbedded in the California Constitution where it would take a 2/3rds vote of their Legislature to lower the legal age? Why did 57% of the people of the State of Michigan in 1978 vote to pass a constitutional amendment to raise the legal age back to 21? (and by a vote of 1,609,589 to 1,208,497 with only 49,126 more voting in the governor's race?) Why did the city council members in Chicago vote almost unanimously to raise the legal age there to 21 on beer and wine (it was already illegal for liquor), and then why did the

Illinois Legislature follow this action by doing it state-wide in Illinois by Illinois law? Why have Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire raised their legal age to 20? On February 12, 1980 the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature by a vote of 31 to 13 passed a bill raising the legal drinking age in that state to 20 and the Governor has said he would sign the bill when passed which may have already been done by the time this article is read. Why are bills being pushed to raise to 21 in Kansas, Minnesota, and Florida at this time? Is it because citizens are recognizing that large and increasing numbers of those under 21 are getting into trouble with alcohol--most often with beer--the beverage of choice of youth?

I suggest that the judgment of society is far more credible than that of highly educated so-called experts who are fast with the speculations as to the causes for one thing or another? It is not because older citizens think raising the legal age will "solve" the problem. It is because they hope that to some degree it will reduce the amount of drinking by those under 21 which often results in addiction, injury and even death. They recognize that raising the legal age will not "solve" the problem but they believe it will go a long way to help reduce it, and believe that a sizeable minority of youth are "set-ups" for addiction if they are exposed to alcohol frequently. Such beliefs arise out of widespread observations of what is happening. In one Minneapolis Hospital which has an adolescent chemical dependency treatment facility over 1,000 teenagers were in treatment in 1979. Newspapers frequently carry news items about alcohol related fatal traffic accidents involving drivers under 21 years of age. These have increased greatly in recent years especially in states which lowered their legal drinking ages.

"BUT BEER IS O.K."--RIGHT? WRONG!

The alcoholic beverage trade has such a powerful lobby in Washington that the federal law (except where state law mandates it) prohibits the even mentioning the fact on the label that beer contains alcohol and the amount. We warn about saccharin and cancer--yet alcohol that can kill quickly if one drinks too much too fast and as contained in beer goes without a warning. And some believe that one cannot become an alcoholic by drinking beer only? The fact is that alcohol is the villain and there is just about the same amount of alcohol in a bottle of beer as in an average sized glass of wine, or shot of whisky. Beer is the beverage of choice for teenagers as everyone knows. And when you drink from a pitcher or from a keg do you really know how much alcohol you are getting? The fact is that many knowledgeable people claim that 10% of the drinking people drink 50% of the alcohol. Doesn't that tell us something?--that what we are dealing with is an addictive drug problem? And for the girls reading this....impairment from alcohol in general depends on the amount of alcohol taken in proportion to body weight. Thus when a 200 pound football hero takes a 100 pound gal out and they drink the same amount of alcohol she is on the average twice as impaired as he is. A word to the wise should be sufficient!

At a house legislative committee hearing in Topeka on February 25, 1980, Dr. James Horne, a Topeka doctor who helps alcoholics told the committee that beer can intoxicate and in many cases clouds the judgement of young people about how drunk they are. He said: "It's about the sneakiest drug there is."

PROGNOSIS OF RECOVERY IF YOU GET HOOKED

If one afflicted with addiction to alcohol could look forward to an easy recovery, and before he became heavily involved, he might not need to be substantially concerned about becoming addicted. If recovery is a difficult and often an impossible task and death is the other outcome, the matter becomes serious. In fact, deadly serious. If the chance of becoming addicted if one uses alcohol is sizeable and the chance of recovery in

that event is about one in four, drinking alcohol is indeed a dangerous course of action. And my belief is that the odds come out about this way.

I fear that most people have a conception of recovery as being a rather easy thing. They often think all we have to do is take a victim to the hospital and in a short time he or she will be fully cured. And they do not think about the slips that occur. In one Des Moines alcoholism treatment hospital in one year there were 1623 patients admitted. Of these 547 were new admissions (they had never seen them before but they could have been treated elsewhere.) The rest-1076 were re-admissions. Of these 274 were second admissions, 162 were third, 118 were fourth and 514 were fifth or more. One patient had been there 47 times.

WELL--WHERE DO WE WIND UP?

You probably suspect that I do not drink. And you are right. And I make no apology for it. I go to social parties where people are drinking and I have my soft drink and I don't try to lecture any who are drinking or try to take a drink out of their hands. I am sociable. I personally believe you should not drink until at least you are 21 and that you will find it hard to locate an alcoholic who started drinking after age 21.

If you are going to refrain from drinking until at least 21 you will need to steel yourself to resist social pressure to drink that will come from your peers. Most often those who drink feel uncomfortable in the presence of those who do not. In a way they feel silently criticized. Thus they consciously or half-consciously set about trying to get those who do not drink to start drinking.

If you should follow my example as a youth you will wind up as I did. My Father was not an alcoholic nor was my Mother, but my Father died when I was eleven years of age leaving my Mother and me with a very small estate. He was only 43 years of age. My Mother strongly urged me not to start drinking or smoking unless I could earn the money to do so in which case it was my choice. I saw many of my peers getting into trouble with alcohol. I observed the dangers of addiction and found little opportunity to earn money. In fact, I carried drinking water in a pail on a construction crew at 15¢ an hour.

At 18 I decided to be a life-time abstainer and started encouraging my peers to follow my example. When I got to 21 the whole idea of drinking seemed silly to me, and I have been an abstainer ever since. As a youth in my search for the favor of girl friends in competition with some of my peers, I found that abstinence made the heart grow fonder.

My hope is that this article will cause you to decide (if you have not already) not to fool around with the most dangerous drug we have--the one that causes more human misery, damage, injury and death than all the other drugs combined. In addition to feeling better, and I believe, having a greater success in life and occupation, you will avoid taking sizeable dangerous risks. Dr. Jorge Valles has the best advice: "A very important point is that we cannot predict who is resistant to alcoholism and who is not. We may find these facts difficult to accept but nonetheless they are facts. The only way to avoid alcoholism is never to ingest an alcoholic beverage."

Note: For an extra free copy of this article write to the Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company, 1111 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265. More copies of this article are available at a special quantity price.

E.

TESTIMONY REGARDING THE BILL CHANGING THE
DRINKING AGE TO 21 YEARS OF AGE

by, Bert Falley

My name is Bert Falley, I am the Executive Vice President and Secretary of Falley's, Inc., which owns and operates the Falley's/Food 4 Less retail grocery stores. We now have 19 owned and operated Falley's and Food 4 Less stores; 17 of which are in the State of Kansas.

If you would pass legislation making the dispensing age of alcoholic beverages for grocery stores 18 or less, I would favor the bill changing the drinking age to 21 years of age, even though this would reduce our sales.

I do not feel that the environment in a grocery store is harmful to the younger employees. I think that the young lives that this bill would save would more than offset the sales that our company would lose.

Atch. E



of



WHY THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE SHOULD BE 21

The American Automobile Association presents this information on alcohol-related traffic accidents in the hope that the compelling data detailed in the brochure will help convince state legislatures to raise the legal drinking age to 21.

Atch. F



**AUTOMOBILE
CLUB OF KANSAS**

RON WELCH
Director of Safety/Public Affairs

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Twenty-five thousand Americans die each year in alcohol-related traffic accidents. Five thousand victims are teenagers; over eight thousand victims are between the ages of 16 and 24, although the latter group comprises only 18 percent of the general population.

The severity of this problem was highlighted in a recent Surgeon General's report which noted that life expectancy in this country has increased for every age group with the exception of the 15- to 24-year-olds. Unfortunately, inexperience in driving and in coping with the effects of alcoholic beverages too often combine to bring about tragic consequences.

During the past seven years the legal drinking age has been raised in 21 states. Nineteen states, comprising 44 percent of the population, now have 21 as their legal minimum drinking age for all alcoholic beverages, with twenty-five states specifying 21 as the legal drinking age for distilled spirits. While effectiveness evaluations have not been made in every state, where studies have been made the findings strongly suggest that raising the legal drinking age has been an effective deterrent to alcohol-related traffic accidents.

- * Michigan raised its drinking age to 21 in 1978. Involvement in alcohol-related traffic accidents of 18- to 20-year-old drivers decreased by 31 percent in 1979.
- * Illinois raised its drinking age to 21 in January 1980. During 1980 it experienced an 8.8 percent reduction in single-vehicle nighttime accidents involving male drivers under 21.
- * Maine's action in raising its drinking age to 20 was followed by a 17 percent drop in non-injury, alcohol-related crashes.
- * A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found a 28 percent reduction in alcohol-related accidents in eight of nine states where drinking age had been raised.

Historically, young people are involved in a disproportionate number of alcohol-related accidents. For instance, in Florida in 1981, 19- and 20-year-olds killed more people in such accidents than any other age group. That year, 170 people were killed by drunk drivers under the age of 21, which was 25.5 percent of all alcohol-related deaths in Florida, even though drivers under 21 make up only 10 percent of all Florida licensed drivers and drive only nine percent of the vehicle miles driven. Unfortunately, the Florida experience is typical of states with minimum drinking ages less than twenty-one.



**AUTOMOBILE
CLUB OF KANSAS**

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GARDEN
707 1/2 FUL...
67846
316/275-2471

HUTCHINSON
4 EAST 12TH ST.
67501
316/663-2169

PITTSBURG
410 N. BROADWAY
66762
316/231-8790

SALINA
157 NORTH 9TH
67401
913/827-3505

WICHITA
3340 EAST CENTRAL
67208
316/685-5241

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

A beginning drinker also is a beginning driver - a combination that often is lethal. However, raising the drinking age to 21 can help.

A National Highway Transportation Safety Administration study shows that a 21 minimum drinking age results in an average annual reduction of 28 percent in nighttime fatal accidents involving 18 to 20 year old drivers.

The current Kansas law permitting the purchase and consumption of 3.2 beer by those under age 21 provides a double standard. Three-two beer is nearly as strong as so-called six percent beer, which actually is about four percent alcohol. As one police chief put it, "when the three-two law was established we thought you couldn't get drunk on three-two beer. We now know you can get very drunk on three-two beer."

The drinking-driving problem permeates all age groups. However, the fact remains that young people who are inexperienced at both drinking and driving are particularly susceptible to making errors in judgment. When it comes to operating a vehicle after drinking even 3.2 beer, those errors can be deadly.

The pamphlet "Why The Drinking Age Should Be 21" that has been passed to you provides more insight into this problem. Please read it and then support the raising of Kansas' drinking age to 21.

Thank you.

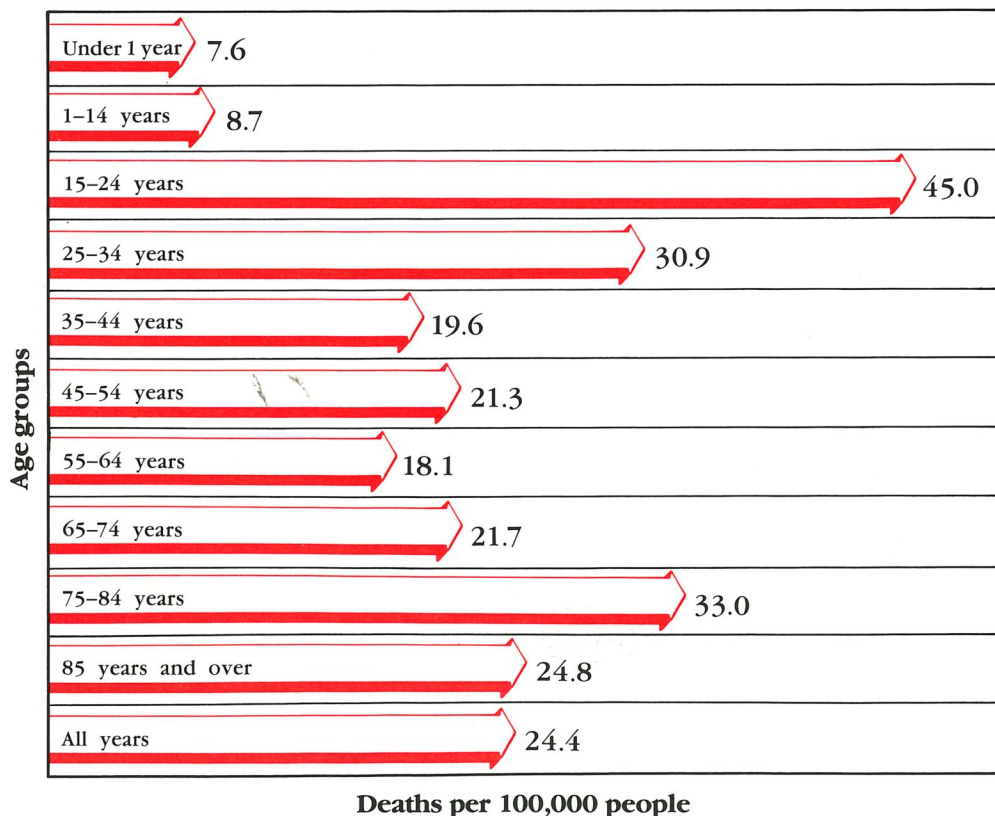


DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- * In 1981, approximately 25,000 died from alcohol-related highway accidents. That amounts to seventy lives a day, one every 23 minutes.
- * In 1981, 4,884 persons died in alcohol-related highway accidents in which the driver was under 21. This represents 23.6 percent of all alcohol-related fatalities.
- * Drivers under 21 represent about 10 percent of the licensed drivers, and drive about 9 percent of the vehicle miles driven.
- * 5,000 teenagers are killed and 130,000 are injured yearly in drunken driving accidents.
- * The results of a January 1983 Gallup Poll indicate that 77 percent of the population favor a uniform drinking age of 21. Even the affected age group (those 18- to 20-years-old) favored 21 in 58 percent of individuals polled.

Source: National Transportation Safety Board

According to a 10 percent national sample of deaths collected by the National Center for Health Statistics in 1980, death rates from motor vehicle accidents distributed by 10-year age groups are as follows:



Deaths per 100,000 people

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The American Automobile Association has long been concerned and involved with the problem of drinking and driving. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety began research in 1964 for the *DWI Phoenix* project, a rehabilitative program which was implemented in 1970 to deter convicted survivors from repeating alcohol-related offenses and to encourage them to seek help if their problems with alcohol were pervasive. While conducting the research for the DWI program, investigators noted that habitual offenders had begun to drink during their teenage years. This led to an exploration of the role of beverage alcohol in the lives of young people.

During this investigation, it was discovered that not only were most teenagers drinking, but alcohol consumption was more than incidental for a sizable percentage of them. As the *DWI Countermeasures Course for High School* was being field-tested in 1974, it became apparent that the program for driver education classes might come too late. Drinking patterns were beginning to form as early as 7th and 8th grades. This startling information raised the question as to the magnitude of the problem of alcohol among youth and indicated the need for additional research. In view of this, AAA developed the *AL-CO-HOL* education program for junior high schools.

Convincing evidence was found that the elementary school years are a formative period for future attitudes and decisions concerning alcohol use. AAA concluded that the earlier alcohol and traffic safety education begins, the more effective it is likely to be in later years in combating drunk driving and other symptoms of alcohol misuse and abuse. Consequently, *Starting Early: An Alcohol Awareness Program for Elementary School (K-6)* was developed, field-tested and evaluated in 1982.

All of the AAA alcohol programs available were developed at Teachers College, Columbia University, under the direction of Dr. James L. Malfetti, through funding provided by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. All materials were extensively field-tested with thousands of students from grade levels K-12, and adults representing urban, suburban and rural communities throughout the country, so that the AAA alcohol programs would have nationwide applicability.

AAA of course recognizes that education and rehabilitation are not the total answer to the DWI problem. There are no panaceas for eliminating the drunken driver. AAA also supports reasonable deterrence measures, and for the reasons enumerated in this brochure, supports a minimum drinking age of 21.



Government Affairs Department
Falls Church, Virginia 22047

KANSAS ALCOHOLIAM AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELOR'S ASSOCIATION

TO: House Federal and State Affairs Committee.

FROM: Glenn Leonardi, Representing the Kansas Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor's Association *G.L.*

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2792

DATE: February 13, 1984

I appear before you today on behalf of the Kansas Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselor's Association (KADACA) to voice our association's concerns about House Bill No. 2792.

KADACA is a professional organization of over two hundred and fifty certified alcoholism and drug abuse counselors representing the entire state of Kansas. The association's purpose is to develop and maintain professional standards and to insure delivery of quality services by the members of this profession.

Our association feels that although responsible behavior cannot be legislated, the American society is in need of a return to the teaching of basic values, structures and discipline in the nuclear family and in our schools. As a means of supporting said position we are in support of raising the drinking age to twenty-one.

Our concerns with House Bill No. 2792 relate to the provisions for the sale of cereal malt beverages (3.2 beer) in taverns and clubs to people under the age of twenty-one (21). Such a provision strongly conveys the misconception that 3.2 beer is safer to drink than strong beer. Research and treatment statistics have clearly demonstrated that for the portion of our population that experiences problems related to the use of alcohol or other drugs, 3.2 beer is every bit as dangerous to consume as strong beer.

KADACA therefor feels that if the legal drinking age in Kansas is raised to twenty-one, it should apply across the board.

Atch. G

I am James Hamilton from Lincoln, Nebraska. I hope you will be like Nebraska in the drinking age but not when it comes to parimutuel wagering. Most dollars gambled away at our race tracks are from Nebraska. Those same dollars spent on main street would produce sales taxes and we would be spared the suffering and problems caused by commercial gambling.

We are fortunate to have lawmakers so concerned for highway safety that they just voted for a drinking age of 21. We worked hard for this through the years. We raised the age from 19 to 20 in 1980. That helped. But we wanted to make our highways even safer. So now we are at 21 by a vote of 35 YES, 12 NO, and 2 not voting.

One argument made over and over in Nebraska was that we were surrounded by states with the legal age of 18 or 19. How wonderful it was to have the Omaha World-Herald on January 14, 1984 come out with an editorial saying, "a uniform drinking age - 21 everywhere - would be desirable. But it doesn't follow that Nebraska should keep the drinking age at 20 - and thereby forfeit the potential benefits of a higher drinking age - merely because some other states have lower drinking ages."

Three states next to Kansas are at 21 so you have one less argument against 21.

Why should a man from Nebraska come to Topeka and support 21? Because some of our youth will come to Kansas and drink and drive. Help us make Nebraska highways even safer by moving your age to 21. Missouri border counties understand this problem.

Here is a SPECIAL REPORT in the News-Sun of Lake County, Illinois where the drinking age is 21. They border Wisconsin where the age is 18. DOZENS OF DEAD, DRUNK KIDS - BLOOD BORDER are the headlines. The article states, "Our alcohol toll far exceeds all other border counties combined. . . The lure of Wisconsin's lower drinking age attracts thousands of Illinois teenagers every week and dozens have died from this traffic."

Those who make a lot of money selling beer claim the drinking age does not make any difference because they'll get it anyway. If Illinois youth could get it anyway, why drive to Wisconsin? I don't want the 40th parallel to become BLOOD BORDER. I urge you to vote for 21.

Respectfully submitted,
James S. Hamilton, Executive Director
Nebraska Council on Alcohol Education
Box 6235
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506

Atch. H

Omaha World-Herald

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 1984, OUR 119TH YEAR — NO. 123 56 PAGES EDITION 5

20c

Bill Increasing Age For Legal Drinking Sent to Governor

By Steven Stingley
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — The Nebraska Legislature Tuesday passed and sent to the governor a bill that would raise the minimum legal drinking age from 20 to 21 Jan. 1, 1985, despite two last-minute attempts to delay final action.

Senators voted 35-12 to pass the bill. Gov. Kerrey has said he is likely to sign the measure into law, although he said he does not think it will accomplish the goals spelled out by its sponsors.

Sens. William Nichol of Scottsbluff and Howard Peterson of Grand Island, sponsors of Legislative Bill 56, said the higher age is needed to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths.

Nebraska's drinking age was dropped from 21 to 20 in 1969, lowered again to 19 in 1972 and raised from 19 to 20 in 1980.

Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler opened an hourlong debate on the bill Monday by introducing an amendment that would have kept the drinking age at 20 but would have allowed authorities to revoke the driver's license of any person under 21 caught driving while intoxicated.

'Not Germane'

The amendment was ruled not germane by Lt. Gov. Don McGinley, the Legislature's presiding officer at the time. An attempt to overrule McGinley's decision failed 12-31.

Sen. John DeCamp of Neligh also tried to amend LB 56, but failed on a 20-24 vote. DeCamp's amendment would have postponed the effective date from

Jan. 1, 1985, to Sept. 1, 1985.

DeCamp had tried before to postpone the change, saying Nebraska should give surrounding states time to raise their ages so that young Nebraskans do not drive elsewhere to get liquor.

Approval of either amendment would have moved the bill back a legislative step and postponed a final vote.

Beutler criticized the bill Tuesday, saying it would have little impact in reducing traffic deaths caused by young drinking drivers. The bill will not encourage young persons not to drink, but merely will make it more "fashionable" just as Prohibition did, he said.

Beutler said the bill singles out a specific group of persons and orders them not to drink just because a small portion are breaking the law by drinking and driving.

'Barbarian Approach'

"This bill will be ineffective and is an uncivilized, barbarian approach to law-making," Beutler said. He predicted there would be attempts to raise the drinking age even higher in future legislative sessions.

LB 56 contains a grandfather clause which will allow 20-year-olds to drink if their 20th birthday comes before the Jan. 1, 1985, effective date of the bill.

The vote to pass LB 56:

For (35) — Barrett, Byer, Carsten, Chronister, Clark, Eret, Fenger, Goll, Goodrich, Hochman, Hefner, Hoagland, Jacobson, L. Johnson, R. Johnson, Kanle, Kilgarrin, Lamb, Landis, Lundy, Marsh, McDonald, Morshead, Nichol, Pappas, H. Peterson, R. Peterson, Pirsch, Remmers, Schmit, Scofield, Sieck, Von Minden, Wagner, Warner.

Against (12) — Abboud, Beutler, Chambers, DeCamp, Hannibal, Harris, Higgins, V. Johnson, Nowell, Rupp, Vickers, Wesely.

Not voting (2) — Labezy, Wilhem.

Atch. I

Drinking age bill ready for Kerrey's signature

By James Joyce
of The Lincoln Star

As expected, the Legislature Tuesday passed and sent to Gov. Bob Kerrey for his promised signature the bill to raise the legal drinking age.

Under the bill, passed on a 35-12 vote, the drinking age would go from 20 to 21 on Jan. 1, 1985. However, any person who turned 20 before that date would still be able to drink legally.

Supporters of the measure (LB56) contend it will result in a reduction of drunk driving deaths and injuries among young people.

Although Kerrey doesn't think the bill would have those results, he nevertheless has said he will sign it.

The last time Nebraska's drinking age was 21 was in 1968. A year later it was lowered to 20, then to 19 in 1972, and in 1980 it was raised back up to 20.

Tuesday's lopsided vote belied the doggedness of the bill's opponents in their attempts to keep the measure from being passed.

For more than an hour they staged a last minute effort to persuade their colleagues the bill was little more than class discrimination and could, in fact, result in even more drunk driving accidents because more young people would be driving to neighboring states where they could drink legally.

The most significant effort was made by Sens. Chris Beutler and Don Wesely of Lincoln, and John DeCamp of Neligh.

The three tried unsuccessfully to have the Legislature scrap the idea of raising the age in favor of establishing a provisional drivers license law.

Under this proposal, anyone under the age of 21 who is convicted of drunk driving would automatically lose his driving privileges until the age of 21.

This, they said, would more directly effect the problem of drunk driving without punishing the majority of 20-year-olds who obey the law.

Raising the drinking age, said Beutler, is "an uncivilized, barbarian approach to law-making because you're taking a whole class of people, 98 percent who are doing nothing wrong, and just sticking it to them."

He also suggested the Legislature was merely doing the politically popular thing rather than listening to the facts.

"If everybody in this room voted exactly how he felt on this bill it wouldn't have gotten this far," Beutler declared.

"Let's stop being hypocritical."

Among neighboring states, Wyoming and Iowa allow those 19 and older to consume alcoholic beverages. In Missouri, South Dakota, Kansas and Colorado, hard liquor and wine can be purchased by those 21 and older, while 3.2 beer can be purchased by those 18 and older.

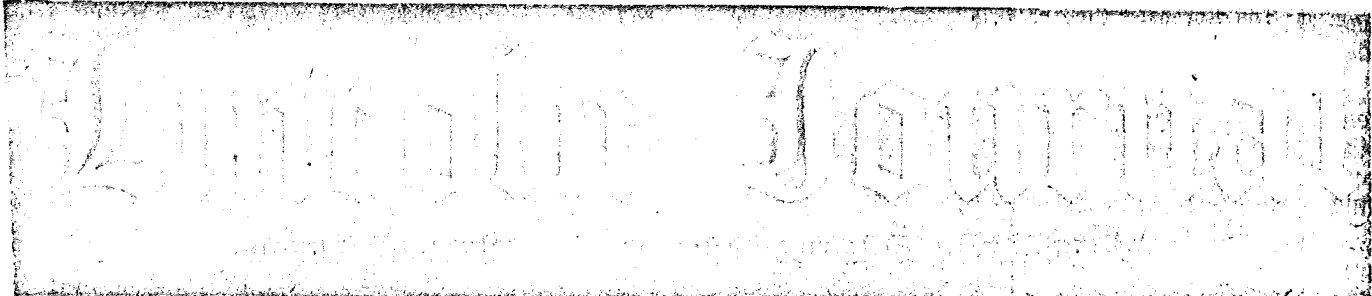
Here is the vote to pass LB56:

For (35) — Barrett, Beyer, Carsten, Chronister, Clark, Eret, Fenger, Goll, Goodrich, Haberman, Hefner, Hoagland, Jacobson, L. Johnson, R. Johnson, Kahle, Kilgorn, Lamb, Landis, Lundy, Marsh, McDonald, Morehead, Nichol, Pappas, H. Peterson, R. Peterson, Pirsch, Remmers, Schmit, Scofield, Sieck, Von Minden, Wagner, Warner.

Against (12) — Abboud, Beutler, Chambers, DeCamp, Hannibal, Harris, Higgins, V. Johnson, Newell, Rupp, Vickers, Wesely.

Present & not voting (1) — Labedz.

Excused (1) — Withem.



Lawmakers

vote to raise legal age

By Thomas A. Fogarty
Journal Statehouse Bureau

The Legislature voted 35-12 Tuesday to pass LB56, which raises the legal drinking age in Nebraska from 20 to 21.

Gov. Bob Kerrey is expected to sign the bill.

For 15 years, the legal drinking age in Nebraska has been either 19 or 20.

Supporters turned back last minute attempts to amend the bill, including an effort by Sen. Chris Beutler of Lincoln to substantially rewrite its provisions.

Beutler's amendment would have left the legal age for drinking alcoholic beverages at 20. It would have established provisional drivers licenses for people under 21. Conviction for driving while intoxicated would require revocation of the license. Additionally, any

See DRINKING AGE on page 3

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1984

Lincoln, Neb. Journal

Lincoln

Drinking age

From page 1

minor convicted of drinking while driving would have his or her license suspended for two years.

Lt. Gov. Don McGinley ruled that Beutler's amendment was not germane to LB56, and an effort to overrule McGinley failed.

Beutler criticized the apparent political motivation of colleagues in voting for the bill.

"You're voting this way because a majority of people in your districts — not knowing the facts — think there's

going to be a salutary effect on the problem," Beutler said. "Let's not be hypocritical"

Beutler said LB56 doesn't deal effectively with alcohol abuse among young people, punishes young people who drink responsibly and doesn't address the problem of teen-age drivers who drink.

The bill, which was sponsored by Sens. William Nichol of Scottsbluff and Howard Peterson of Grand Island, would raise the drinking age effective Jan. 1, 1985. The

bill would allow those who have reached 20 years by that date to continue to drink legally.

Here is the vote:

For (35) — Barrett, Bever, Carsten, Chronister, Clark, Eref, Fenger, Gall, Goodrich, Haberman, Hefner, Hoagland, Jacobson, L. Johnson, R. Johnson, Kahle, Kilgarin, Lamb, Landis, Lundy, Marsh, McDonald, Morehead, Nichol, Pappas, H. Peterson, R. Peterson, Pirsch, Remmers, Schmit, Scofield, Sleck, Van Minden, Wagner, Warner.

Against (12) — Abboud, Beutler, Chambers, DeCamp, Hannibal, Harris, Higgins, V. Johnson, Newell, Rupp, Vickers, Wesely.

Present and not voting (1) — Labadz.

Absent (1) — Wilthem.

Omaha World-Herald

8 Thursday, January 19, 1984

Kerrey: Age 21 Won't Solve Liquor Woes but I'll Sign Bill

By John Barrette

WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

Lincoln — Gov. Kerrey said Wednesday that he isn't convinced that raising the drinking age would do a lot to solve the state's alcohol-related problems. But he said if a bill to set the age at 21 reaches his desk, he will sign it.

He said the best way to solve alcohol-related problems involving young people is with some new type of intervention program and adults who "set good examples."

"The problems that they think are going to go away aren't going to go away," Kerrey said.

Other Drugs Abused

Legislative Bill 56, which would raise the drinking age limit from 20 to 21, was given first-round legislative approval with 28 senators supporting it last week.

The bill would have to be approved at second-round and final-reading stages before it would go to the governor for his signature.

The measure, introduced by Sens. William Nichol of Scottsbluff and Howard Peterson of Grand Island, was offered as a way to

Omaha World Herald
Thursday, January 19, 1984

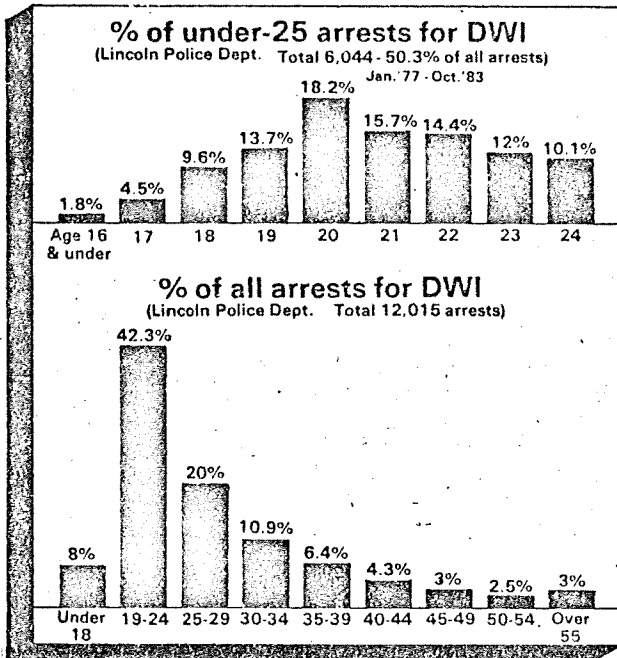
Only part of the solution

The higher drinking age would be only one step in the right direction ... Society has to be willing to dedicate itself to every weapon available ...

The governor, and the Legislature, if they are really concerned about young people and alcohol-drug abuse, should not only pass the higher drinking-age bill but also stiffen penalties and call for increased enforcement against adults who sell to minors, buy for minors, or conduct drinking parties for minors at any time — including the infamous graduation drinking celebrations ...

There are groups of young people who are willing to ignore peer pressures in an effort to provide a non-drinking alternative.

— Scottsbluff Star-Herald
Jan. 29, 1984



20 is No. 1 age for DWI arrests

More 20-year-olds were arrested for driving while intoxicated in the first 10 months of 1983 than any other single age group, according to statistics compiled by the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs.

Dade found that the 19-24 group was consistently at the highest risk, accounting for 42.1 percent of all DWI arrests in the six-year period, 1977 to 1982, and 43.9 percent through October 1983.

Similar statistics are often cited to support raising the drinking age.

The second and third most common ages for DWI arrests are 21 and 22, points out Ron Dade, LCAD research analyst.

But they also point to the need to reach youths who will be entering that age group to educate them about alcohol and its abuse, Dade said.

That pattern holds up through the period from 1977 through 1982 locally, and is mirrored by national statistics.

"While a universal drinking age looks like a great idea," he said, "we should not ignore the need for prevention."

More than half (51.5 percent) of the 1,498 DWI arrests from Jan. 1 through Oct. 31, 1983, the last period for which statistics are available, were under age 25, he said.

"We need to look at the fact that post-high school is young people's first experience with freedom, that young adults probably have more money to spend and that experimentation with alcohol in high school continues as they move into the post-secondary years," he said.

Consistently

In fact, from 1977 through October last year, the under-25 age group accounted for 50.3 percent of the total of all DWI arrests, with age 20 consistently the highest, followed by 21 and 22, Dade said.

If schools and the community haven't done their work in prevention, young people are not going to handle their freedom appropriately, he added.

Until 1980, 19 was the legal drinking age in Nebraska.

The Legislature last week gave first-round approval to LB56, a measure which would raise the legal drinking age in Nebraska from 20 to 21. And a national campaign is under way to make 21 the legal drinking age nationwide.

At this time, the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs has not taken a stand on LB56.

Wadman Backs 21 Drinking Age To Fight Crime

By Gabriella Stern

World-Herald Staff Writer

Omaha's police chief Friday urged support for a bill that would raise the legal age for drinking alcoholic beverages in Nebraska from 20 to 21.

And Chief Robert Wadman said the police department will begin actively enforcing state laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the possession of alcohol by minors.

"If we can reduce the overall availability of alcohol to young people," Wadman said, "we will have a direct impact on reducing Omaha's crime rate."

Crime Rates Cited

Raising the drinking age would reduce the number of crimes committed by youths under age 21, Wadman said. He cited the following nationwide statistics:

—Half of all crimes are committed by people under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

—Half the violent crimes are committed by youths under age 21.

In response to Wadman's announcement, the chairman of the Nebraska Licensed Beverage Association said police should be sure to crack down on minors who violate the law, not on bar and liquor store owners.

"Wadman might do well to concen-

trate on minors who tempt retailers to sell," said Wayne Hill. "We need help. It's hard to tell that they are not 20."

Wadman declined to discuss the department's strategy in increasing enforcement of liquor laws, saying only, "We're going to stringently enforce them."

Wadman said his position on the drinking age is related philosophically to his stance on gambling. Last summer, Wadman announced his opposition to all forms of legalized gambling because, he said, gambling breeds crime.

Bars Against Bill

"I'm not becoming the moral finger of turpitude," said Wadman, a Mormon who is not opposed to drinking. "Certain kinds of behavior contribute to overall crime problems.

"All I'm trying to do is take the fire hose and put out the fire."

This week, the drinking-age bill received second-round approval in the Nebraska Legislature. Hill said his association, which has 1,500 bars and liquor store members, has lobbied against it.

Hill, who owns the California Bar, 510 N. 33rd St., said raising the drinking age wouldn't deter under-age drinkers. It would simply increase the number of

Omaha Police Chief Backs 21 Age to Reduce Crime

•Continued from Page 23

offenders, he said. "They do excellent jobs now making phony I.D.'s."

Also, Hill said, young Nebraskans might drive to neighboring states for liquor. Iowa and Kansas allow 19-year-olds to drink beer and alcoholic beverages, and in Colorado, Kansas and South Dakota, 18-year-olds can drink 3.2 beer.

About a possible relationship between drinking and crime, Hill said only, "Statistics can be bent to fit anybody's needs. He (Wadman) has got his set he goes by and we've got ours."

Wadman cited a survey in which penitentiary inmates were asked to assess the importance of drugs and alcohol in their criminal careers. Nearly half the inmates surveyed said drugs and alcohol had "some" or "a lot" of influence on criminal activity in their youth.

"Our crime trends appear to be the

same," Wadman said. "It appears we blend in with the national data."

Police have begun addressing the problem, Wadman said, by sending students and parents in Omaha area high schools information about the relationship between alcohol and drug consumption and crime.

To explain the relationship, Wadman referred to a U.S. Department of Justice report that says drugs and alcohol are "triggering factors or stimuli for crime. They may help one overcome the mental barriers to unlawful conduct; they also override the physical stress that might otherwise deter criminal acts."

The report also says that "drugs and alcohol can be viewed as elements of a crime culture or milieu that promotes unlawful conduct as a lifestyle and means of subsistence."

Please turn to Page 24, Col. 1



"Dedicated to the People of Nebraska, and to the Development of the Resources of the State"—Sept. 7, 1867.

Lincoln Journal

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Editorials: Opinions of the Journal

Higher drinking age: Thanks

For the 35 senators who voted Tuesday to pass LB56 — and to Gov. Kerrey, assuming he signs it, as he has indicated he will — Nebraskans owe thanks. Some of us, in years to come, may also owe our lives to those public officials.

LB56 will, on Jan. 1, 1985, raise the legal drinking age in this state from 20 to 21. Studies in states where similar action has been taken argue that this should reduce drunkenness and traffic accidents among young drivers.

This expression of thanks does not intend to suggest that the 12 legislators who voted against the bill are insensitive to the welfare of youth. Their concern that those under 21 may drive to other states to buy alcoholic beverages is far from fanciful.

But a uniform drinking age of 21 is a desirable goal, and some state needs to take the lead. Nebraska's neighbors will have reason to follow our example. If there are booze-buying expeditions across state lines, that traffic will create problems on both

sides of the border. Pressure from citizens and law-enforcement agencies of surrounding states then may move legislatures there to act, if they are not already so inclined.

Twenty-year-olds will, we hope, see the passage of LB56 as motivated by a regard for their health and safety. If some think of it merely as a restrictive and discriminatory move — well, so be it. In various ways, society lately has exhibited a resolve to alleviate the twin scandals of drunken driving and fatal accidents, and statistics point to the young as particularly prone to these phenomena.

Those who say raising the drinking age is merely one step are right, of course. Strict enforcement of all laws pertaining to drinking and driving is essential. And educational efforts along this line are extremely important. But with continued determination and the help of LB56, Nebraska can extend the victories it has won the past two years in the battle against drunken driving and highway carnage.

CONGRESSMAN CHRIS SMITH CALLS FOR NATIONAL UNIFORM DRINKING AGE

Every day 14 teenagers die in auto accidents in which alcohol is a contributing factor. All told, of the 50,000 people who die in highway accidents each year, half of the victims of drunken drivers, 5,000 of those are teenagers, 35 percent are between the ages of 16 and 24.

These are sobering statistics, but they speak eloquently of the necessity of dealing with the dual problems of teenage drinking and drunken driving.

Congress is currently addressing these issues through two pieces of legislation, which I have joined as a co-sponsor. The first, House Resolution 3870, would prohibit the sale in interstate commerce of alcoholic beverages to persons under age 21. The second, House Concurrent Resolution 23, urges all states to adopt a uniform minimum drinking age of 21.

We are widely recognizing the need for a 21-year-old drinking age as an important step in combating the alarming epidemic of highway deaths caused by drunken driving. We have seen clear evidence from states which have altered the minimum drinking age that fatal crashes involving alcohol rise for younger drivers when the age limit has been reduced, and fall when it has been raised.

The approach of H.R. 3870 to this tragic problem is simple and direct. It prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages to anyone under age 21. An establishment violating this law would be subject to administrative penalties of

up to \$5,000 per violation imposed by a federal agency as well as legal action by citizens to halt future sales to those under 21. States would also be able to provide additional penalties, including beverage license revocation. In the cases where a state maintains a lower drinking age, federal penalties would still apply between that age and 21.

Much debate has centered on the need for a 21-year-old drinking age and how to go about establishing it. So far only 16 states have adopted that limit, and many in Congress feel it is unrealistic to wait for the rest of them to follow suit. We at the federal level must take the lead in establishing a uniform national standard, which H.R. 3870 does, while leaving criminal sanctions to the states themselves. What is particularly interesting to note is the polls we in Congress have seen which show that most 18-, 19- and 20 year olds favor a minimum 21-year-old drinking age, demonstrating a responsibility to accept such a restraint on themselves.

H. Con. Res. 23, while non-binding, would nevertheless put the states on notice of Congress' desire for a uniform 21-year-old drinking age. The support for this concept is wide ranging, and includes such organizations as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD); the National Transportation Safety Board; the American Medical Association and the International Chiefs of Police, among others. The "21" proposal is also an instrumental part of the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving,

issued earlier this year.

All parties are committed to the belief that a uniform and higher drinking age is fundamental to any serious attempt to solve our national drunk

driving epidemic.

CHRIS SMITH
Member of Congress
4th District, New Jersey
Washington, D. C.

House bill would set national drinking age

WASHINGTON (AP) — States would have two years to comply with a proposed new national minimum drinking age of 21 years under legislation headed toward House floor action.

The measure, adopted Tuesday by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, would prohibit most bars and liquor stores from selling alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21. Establishments violating the law could be subject to fines up to \$5,000.

The measure next goes to the House floor. No time for a vote has yet been set.

On Tuesday, the Nebraska Legisla-

ture voted to raise the drinking age in the state from 20 to 21. Gov. Bob Kerrey is expected to sign the measure.

The House committee adopted an amendment by Rep. Norman F. Lent, R-N.Y., to the measure that would delay the bill's effective date for two years to let states with lower drinking ages change their own laws to come into compliance with the federal standard.

States would then enforce their own laws. The federal government would enforce the 21-year standard in states that declined to go along.

The House bill would use the federal government's power to regulate inter-

state commerce to enforce the proposed new minimum drinking age. So long as an establishment sold alcoholic beverages manufactured in another state, the ban would apply.

The Reagan administration opposes the legislation, claiming the setting of drinking ages is solely a state responsibility.

Similar legislation was introduced in the Senate this week by Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J.

Under Lautenberg's proposal, states not adopting their own 21-year-old drinking ages would lose their share of federal highway funds.



"Dedicated to the People of Nebraska, and to the Development of the Resources of the State" — Sept. 7, 1867.

Lincoln Journal

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Editorials: Opinions of the Journal

Boozed drivers killed 108

If you keep a scrapbook of those boxes that run in this space each month, giving an accounting of Nebraska traffic deaths, you'll need to do a little updating. No, you probably don't keep a scrapbook, but you at least ought to bear in mind what those boxes reveal — that it's best to venture onto the streets and highways cautiously, and not at all if you've been drinking.

Anyway, the state statisticians have now declared the 1983 figures final. They vary a bit from the total of the ones printed here each month, because some reports come in late or further investigation moves a fatality onto the list of alcohol-related.

This is what the state records now show for last year: 255 people were killed in Nebraska traffic accidents; alcohol was involved in 108 of the deaths, or 42 percent.

That total of 255 represents a lot of tragedy and heartache, but still is encouraging. It's the lowest since 1945.

One can take heart, too, from the fact that alcohol was a factor in only 42 percent of the fatalities. National safety authorities estimate that at least 50 percent of road deaths can be attributed to drinking and driving. Lately a pathologists' organization has suggested the percentage may be considerably higher.

Either Nebraskans are doing a better job than other Americans of staying sober behind the wheel, or law enforcement agencies here are not detecting all the cases in which alcohol played a role. Maybe both.

In any event, the fact that 108 persons died in 1983 because somebody was boozed up and barreling down the street or road is still a pretty sad indictment of our society in Nebraska. It's a continuing argument for strict laws against drunken driving, vigorous enforcement and unremitting campaigns to educate the public about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Nebraska traffic fatalities continued decline in 1983

By Melanie Gray
Journal Writer

Traffic fatalities in Nebraska declined for the second straight year in 1983, indicating that 1982's reduction was not a fluke.

Nebraska in 1982 recorded the fewest traffic fatalities — 261 — and the fewest number of fatal accidents — 222 — in 33 years. The state has not had fewer traffic fatalities since 1949 when there were 258 deaths.

The state's traffic death toll through Dec. 30 was 254 and its number of fatal accidents was 220.

The 1983 figures were based on a 2.1 percent increase over 1982 in the number of vehicle miles traveled, said Bob Grant, a statistical analyst for the state Department of Roads. A total of 9.885 million miles were traveled on state roads in the first 10 months of 1983, compared with 9.684 million miles during the same period in 1982.

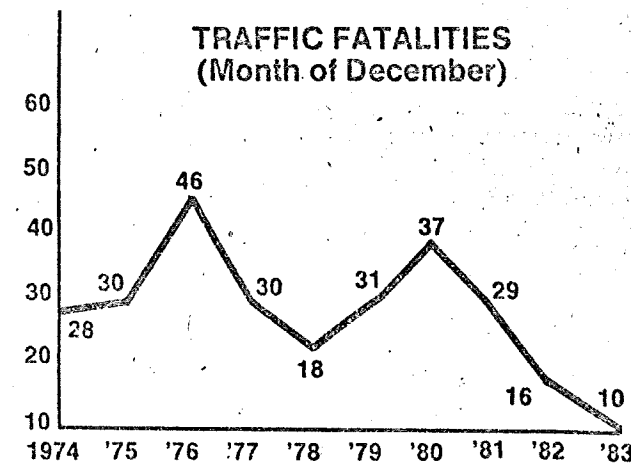
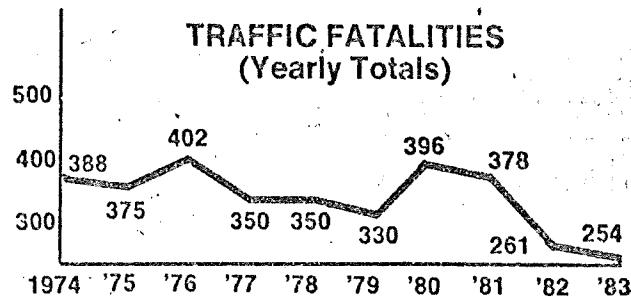
Officials surprised

Grant said some people viewed 1982's significant reduction in traffic deaths as an aberration.

The continued decline also surprised highway officials who expected the number to increase slightly, he said.

Fred Zwonechek, administrator of the state Office of Highway Safety, said that he feared 1982's reduction would not continue in 1983 if attention to the hazards of drunken driving waned.

Although less extensive in 1983, media coverage of Nebraska's toughened drunken driving law enacted in July 1982 in conjunction with participation programs such as Mothers Against Drunk



Drivers helped change drivers' habits and sustain 1982's reduction, Zwonechek said.

"Bring them together and they really contribute to changing the behavior of drinking and driving," he said. "That awareness may spread to other driving habits."

Alcohol involved

Alcohol apparently was involved in 105 fatalities during the first 11 months of 1983, compared with 94 and 176 during the same period in 1982 and 1981, respectively, Zwonechek said. The slight increase in alcohol-related fatalities in 1983 over 1982 likely indicates better reporting of accidents' details.

As of Dec. 29, the state also recorded reductions in the number of traffic fatalities

involving trains, motorcycles and pedestrians.

Twenty-five people were killed in motorcycle accidents in 1983, compared with 27 in 1982, Grant said. Pedestrian fatalities decreased from 29 in 1982 to 24 in 1983. Seven people died in train accidents in 1982 while 10 died in 1983.

J

My name is Laura Stuber, and I am a junior at Shawnee Mission East High School. I would like to say that a lot of kids that I go to school with have bad drinking problems, and something must be done about it. I see so many people getting in their cars after they have been drinking and it scares me. People my age do not realize the things alcohol does to their bodies. This is why more alcohol education should be taught in schools. I think if kids would learn at an early age about alcohol and drugs like they learn other things, they would realize what alcohol does to their bodies.

HB 2792 would raise the age to 21 at which one could go buy beer - if you are 18 you could drink at 18 bars. Something like this is needed because we need as many deterrents as possible in fighting abusive drinking. This would also make it harder for 18 year olds to buy beer for younger kids which is one of the students' main sources for alcohol. When people turn 18 they are very willing to buy beer for kids because they are 18 now. Also, not as many high school kids have contact with 21 year olds. However, the 18 year olds who go to these bars would probably consume as much liquor as they could since they cannot buy it legally which would cause people to drive away intoxicated. Still, if someone really wants beer it is not that hard to get. A lot of kids take alcohol right out of their parents liquor cabinet without their parents noticing. Many stores do not care who they sell beer to. A lot of kids stand outside stores and wait for anyone over 18 to come along who will buy beer for them. Some bars in the Kansas City area admit kids who are as young as 13 as long as they have fake I.D.'s. There needs to be strict enforcement in closing these places down. There are so many ways underaged kids can get beer. If HB 2792 went into affect it would help keep alcohol out of the school day. Right now the 18 year olds can legally go out during lunch and buy beer. This is very common at high schools to have "liquid lunches" as they are called. This brings younger kids to drinking because their 18 year old friends can buy them alcohol too.

Another thing, I have been at parties where the police have come and broken up everything. This makes me sad when I see all the people who are so drunk they can hardly stand up have to get in their cars and drive. I think the police should take some sort of responsibility such as perhaps making sure some intoxicated kids get a ride home with someone sober. This shows the fact that teenagers need to be better educated about drinking and driving. Younger junior high kids should know that they do not need to drink to feel good about themselves - no one ever told me this but I am glad that I figured it out myself. I hope this message would be sent out especially to the younger kids who are really trying to figure out who they are.

I feel that many things should be done to combat underage drinking and drunk driving. 1) Parents and teachers should be better educated about drinking. So many parents think that it's always the "other kids" who are out getting drunk. Their own kids come in the door after getting drunk and they do not even notice. 2) Students should be educated about drinking and understand what alcohol is and does to their body. 3) Police or the government should close down more bars serving underage drinkers and stores selling to the same people. It's going to take a lot of people to stop alcohol abuse, but it can be done.

Atch. J

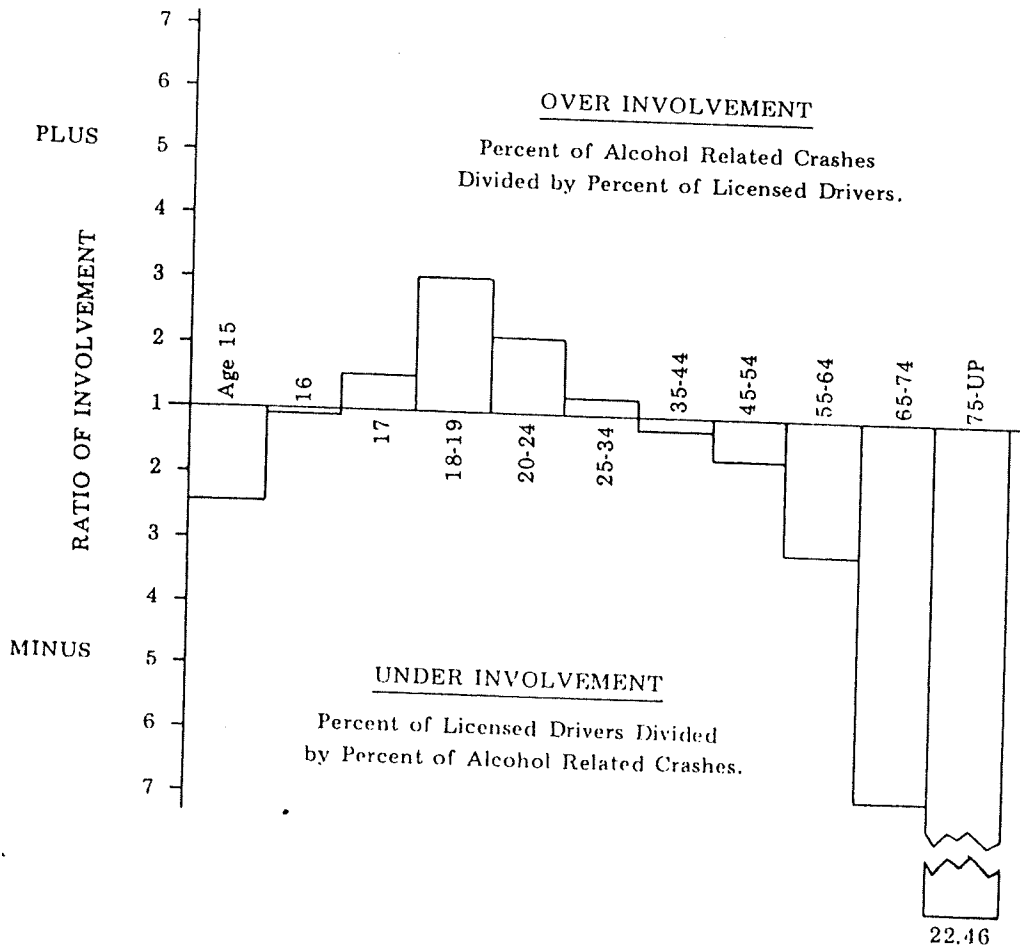
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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ACCIDENT RESEARCH & STATISTICS

COMPARISON OF AGE GROUPS
INVOLVED IN
ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES
1978 - 1982

| AGE GROUP | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | 75-UP |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| PERCENT OF LICENSED DRIVERS | 1.34 | 2.03 | 2.53 | 4.61 | 12.55 | 21.22 | 13.64 | 12.08 | 14.24 | 9.92 | 5.84 |
| PERCENT OF ALCOHOL CRASHES | .54 | 1.98 | 3.90 | 14.17 | 27.50 | 26.62 | 11.44 | 7.55 | 4.61 | 1.43 | .26 |
| RATIO OF INVOLVEMENT | -2.48 | -1.02 | +1.54 | +3.07 | +2.19 | +1.25 | -1.19 | -1.60 | -3.09 | -6.94 | -22.46 |

An involvement ratio of 1.00 would indicate that an age group had the same percent of licensed drivers as is their percent of alcohol related auto crashes.



Atch. K

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WJ AGENCY TPK

WJ INFOMASTER 1-800-899-0018 01/16/84
ICS 1PMKAKC KSC
ZCZC 01180 (01170) 01-16 0959A CST KAWA
PLK 420439 WJ AGENCY TPK
BT

4-0132120017 01/17/84
ICS DDDCRSB ABN
00043 DOD CRC ALBANY GA 180013Z JAN 84/016
PMS
BISHOP BEN OLIPHINT C/O REVEREND RICHARD TAYLOR
WILL CALL
TOPEKA KS

I P RUEBJGA2029 0172029 CG-W2GARC
P 172029Z JAN 84
FM DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC//DTOS//
TO BISHOP BEN OLIPHINT
C/O REVEREND RICHARD TAYLOR
1273 HARRISON STREET
TOPEKA KS 66612

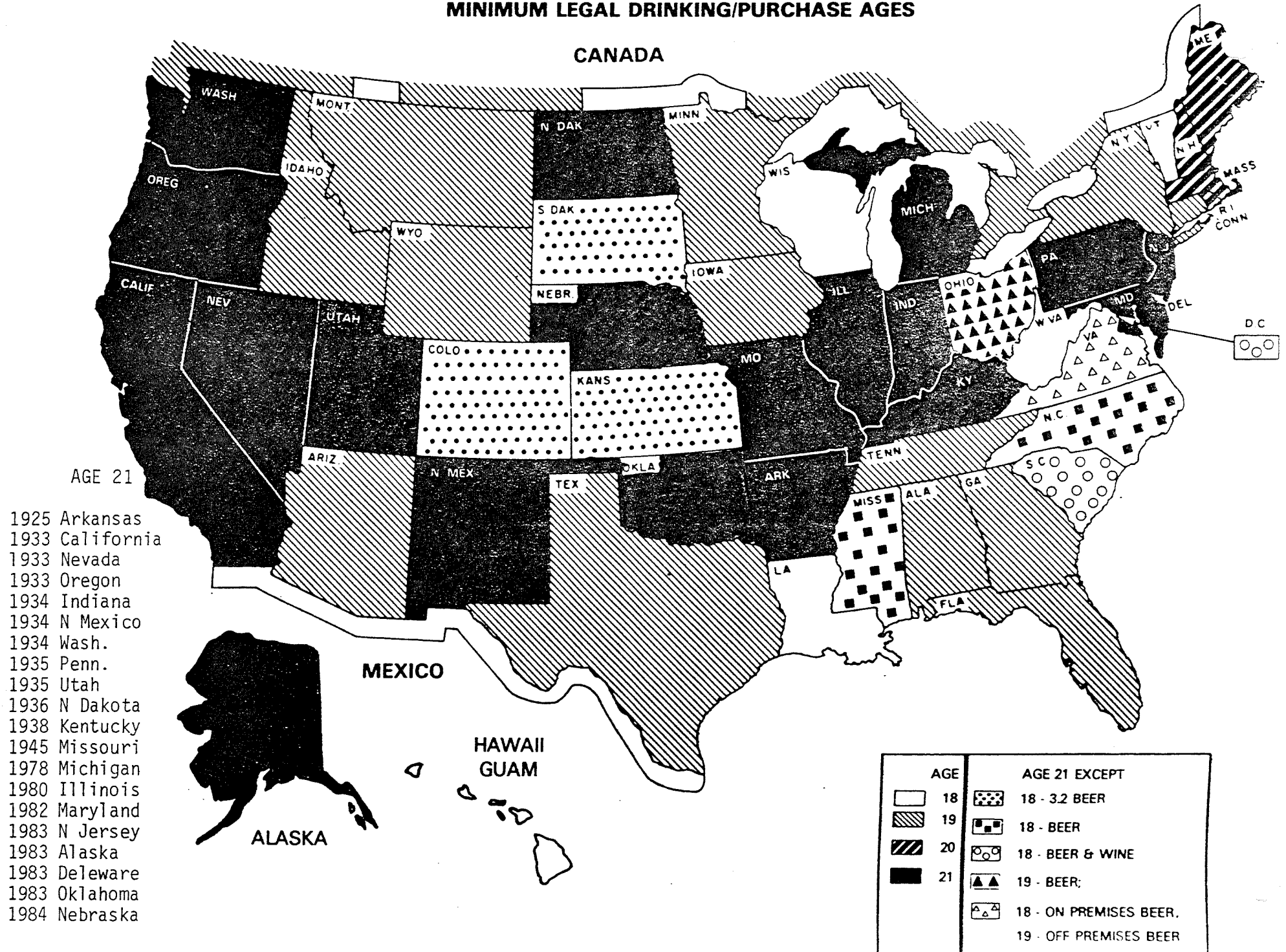
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DEAR BISHOP OLIPHINT:
I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND INVITATION TO
YOUR BREAKFAST FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE KANSAS
LEGISLATURE. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PLEASURE TO JOIN
ALL OF YOU, BOTH BECAUSE I AM ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO BE
IN KANSAS, AND BECAUSE YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING DRUNK
DRIVING, AN ISSUE OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME.
UNFORTUNATELY, PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS PREVENT ME
FROM JOINING YOU AT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.
AS WE BOTH KNOW, DRUNK DRIVING IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM
THAT IS BEST ADDRESSED AT THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL.
HIGHWAY FATALITY STATISTICS SHOW THAT DRIVERS UNDER
21 YEARS OF AGE ARE INVOLVED IN ABOUT 42 PERCENT OF
ALL FATAL ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES. STATE LAWS
ESTABLISHING 21 AS THE MINIMUM LEGAL AGE FOR THE
PURCHASE OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE AN
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR NATIONAL ATTACK UPON THE
TRAGIC PROBLEM OF DRUNK DRIVING.
MY WARMEST REGARDS TO YOU AND THE LAWMAKERS WHO
HAVE JOINED YOU ON THIS OCCASION.
SIGNED: SINCERELY,
ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE, SECRETARY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DC TELEX 892427
1916 EST

NNNN
1107 EST

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WJ AGENCY TPK

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD MINIMUM LEGAL DRINKING/PURCHASE AGES



L.

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers

Branch of the National Congress

STATE OFFICE, 404 WEST 7TH

TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603

February 13, 1984

Dear Rep. Miller, Chairman
of the Federal and State Affairs Committee and Members of the Committee

I am ROSIE GREENEMEYER, Legislation Chairman and Lobbyist for the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers of which I represent some 60,000 members.

Last October at our state convention, we approved our legislative positions. One of our top priority items is:

"WE SUPPORT CONTINUED EFFORTS TO RAISE THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE IN KANSAS TO 21."

This item has concerned my group for quite sometime and we are pleased to see that legislation has been introduced to make changes in the current law(s) in regards to 18 year olds purchasing cereal malt beverages. Although HB2792 would make some changes in this area, HB2651 seems to represent the changes we would like to see.

I believe that our society is sending a real DOUBLE MESSAGE to our young adults. The newspapers, magazines, speakers, tell us EDUCATION is the #1 issue at this time in history. We are reminded that we demand excellence from our students. We know changes are taking place to improve upon our educational institutions here in Kansas and we desire to strengthen our nation so we longer will be at RISK, so it seems like we need to start working on the DOUBLE MESSAGE being sent out to our youths.

We submit the following reasons for your consideration of raising the drinking age to 21:

The #1 killer of children/youth is auto accidents and we know that drunk driving is the leading cause of death for young people age 16 to 24 years of age. While 16 to 24 year olds make up only 20 percent of all

Atch. 4.

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers

Branch of the National Congress

STATE OFFICE, 404 WEST 7TH
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603

February 13, 1984

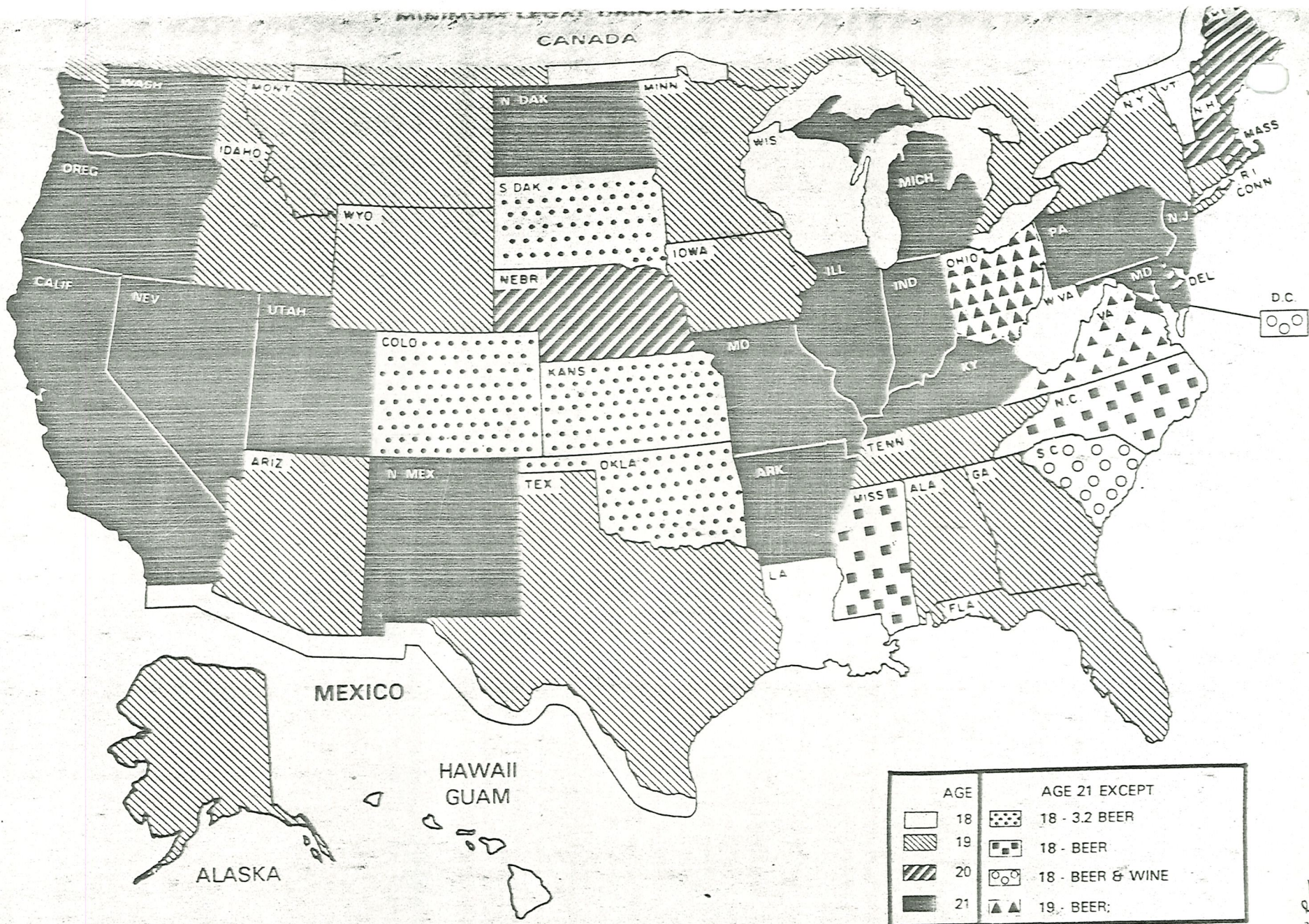
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licensed drivers and travel just 20 percent of the total vehicle miles traveled by drivers of all ages, they cause 42 percent of all fatal alcohol-related accidents. (The night time figure shows they cause 44 percent of all fatal alcohol-related accidents.)

Source: National PTA, National Safety Council

This state spends through its schools and various organizations, thousands of dollars to educate our young people about drug abuse of which alcohol is considered to be the #1 abused drug. We teach them about the hazards and then turn around and give them permission by the laws in the book. "NO KID EVERY DIED BECAUSE HE WASN'T ALLOWED TO DRINK!"

The states where the drinking age has been raised from 18 to 21, the alcohol-related fatalities have dropped.



February 1983

*Orla 21
Nelu 21*

102

ANITA G. NILES
 REPRESENTATIVE, SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT
 COFFEY, LYON COUNTIES
 LEBO, KANSAS 66856



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
 REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
 MEMBER: ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE
 AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

February 13, 1984

Many legislators, as well as the general population, are concerned about raising the drinking age. Passage of H.B. 2651 would permit Kansas to join ¹⁹~~21~~ other states who have already passed legislation to increase the drinking age to 21. One of the states who recently made the decision was our neighbor Nebraska.

Four national groups are calling for increasing the drinking age to 21: the National Transportation Safety Board, the Insurance for Highway Safety, the National Safety Council, and the National Safety Administration. In addition, Transportation Committee Chairman, Elizabeth Dole is making a similar request.

The freedom to use alcohol or other drugs is not a "fundamental" liberty under the Constitution; this means that it lies within the limits of state government to establish the conditions under which alcohol will be available, including time, place, manner of access and minimum drinking age. No legislature would seriously consider repealing minimum drinking age altogether.

Would it solve all the teen-age drinking problems? No, it would be unrealistic to believe that because we have a 55 mi.per hr. speed limit, no one is driving faster than 55. But, if you can think back to before 1976, you will remember that many people drove 70-75 miles an hour, myself included. But when the legal speed limit was

Atch. M

changed, people complied with the law. And, the number of deaths decreased. Perhaps some member of your family or mine was spared becoming a statistic.

Raising the drinking age to 21 reduces peer pressure on younger people to drink. Higher limits ease the age-identification problem for bartenders.

When the legal age is 21, beer and alcohol is purchased for friends who are 20, 19, or 18. When the legal age is 18, it is purchased for friends 17 and younger.

Persons age 21 are no longer in high school, so their circle of friends are not high school students.

I spoke to Mr. David Shartan of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety this morning concerning whether states that changed the drinking age to 21 several years ago, had experienced a lowering of insurance rates. I found that information was not available to the public or legislators, but Mr. Shartan said he could tell me that there was no question but that there had been a dramatic impact on that part of the driving public that was affected.

The increasing use of alcohol by younger & younger age groups is cause for alarm. The number of teen-age alcoholics is increasing, and has become a problem in some high schools.

I was given statistics by the Alcohol Abuse section of S.R.S. relevant to people under 21 who have been referred to their programs. In 1982, 2,848 were treated and in 1983, there was a slight reduction to 2,665. The reason for the reduction was surmised to be that some youths who needed to be treated could not afford it.

You will recall that today we voted on H.B. 2182 which amended the Kansas uniform gifts to minors act, changing the age from 18 to 21. You may also recall a fellow legislator recounting his own experiences with family members not being old enough at 18 to use their inheritance responsibly.

The same is true with many young people's ability to handle alcohol.

A study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety has shown that raising the legal drinking age produced an average annual reduction of 28% in night-time fatal crashes involving 18 to 21 year-old drivers.

As we debate this issue, we must realize that the alcohol industry in this country is estimated conservatively to be a \$25 billion business annually. And we must also realize it has great lobbying power.

When Michigan changed it's drinking age from 18 to 21, 10 million fewer gallons of beer were sold. So, I can predict that tomorrow you will have many tavern representatives before you. But I would ask you to question yourselves - which voice is coming through more clearly - that of lobbists, or the public who are asking protection for their young people?



21-Year National Drinking-Age Law Backed By Large Majority Of Public

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — If the American people were voting today in a nationwide referendum on a law making 21 the national minimum drinking age, the large majority, including young people, would vote "yes."

Adults of all ages express support for a uniform national drinking age. Even 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds vote for the proposed legislation, by a 3-to-2 ratio. These young men and women would not be able to legally buy or drink alcoholic beverages if such a law were enacted. At present, 34 states and the District of Columbia permit adults under 21 to drink all or some forms of alcoholic beverage.

The strongest (6-to-1) backing for the proposal comes from persons 50 and older, with proportionately less support as age decreases. Thus, 83% of those 50 and older favor a national minimum-age law, compared to 77% of 30-to-49-year-olds, 72% of 21-to-29-year-olds, and 58% of 18-to-20-year-olds. Also, men and persons who attended college — population groups in which there is a high incidence of drinking — express somewhat greater opposition to the proposed law.

Accidents Decline

When the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1971, giving 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds the right to vote in national elections, many states lowered their minimum legal drinking age. This reflected the belief that if young people were old enough to vote, marry, and serve in the armed forces, they were mature enough to drink responsibly. However, with teen-agers disproportionately involved in alcohol-related auto accidents, state legislators have been reassessing their drinking-age laws. As recently as 1979, 12 states permitted 18-year-olds to drink; today only five do.

Spurred by parents of children killed in accidents involving drunk drivers, President Reagan last year named a 32-member commission to study the drunk-driving problem. One of the commission's key recommendations urged states to raise the legal age for buying or consuming alcoholic beverages to 21.

Drunk driving reportedly causes 25,000 auto fatalities and costs the nation some \$24 billion each year. Some states which have taken tough measures to deal with drunk driving, including raising their legal drinking age, report sharp reductions in alcohol-related accidents.

One of the principal arguments for raising the legal age is that it would help prevent high-school seniors, many of whom are now of legal age, from buying alcoholic beverages for their younger schoolmates.

Gallup surveys have shown strong public support for raising the minimum drinking age in states where it is legal to drink at ages 18 or 19. However, a 1981 Gallup Youth Survey of 13-to-18-year-olds found that far fewer teen-agers living in states with lower drinking ages favored raising the legal age, while in states with higher limits, many more teen-agers expressed a preference for lowering the drinking age.

Following is the question asked of adults in the latest survey and the key findings:

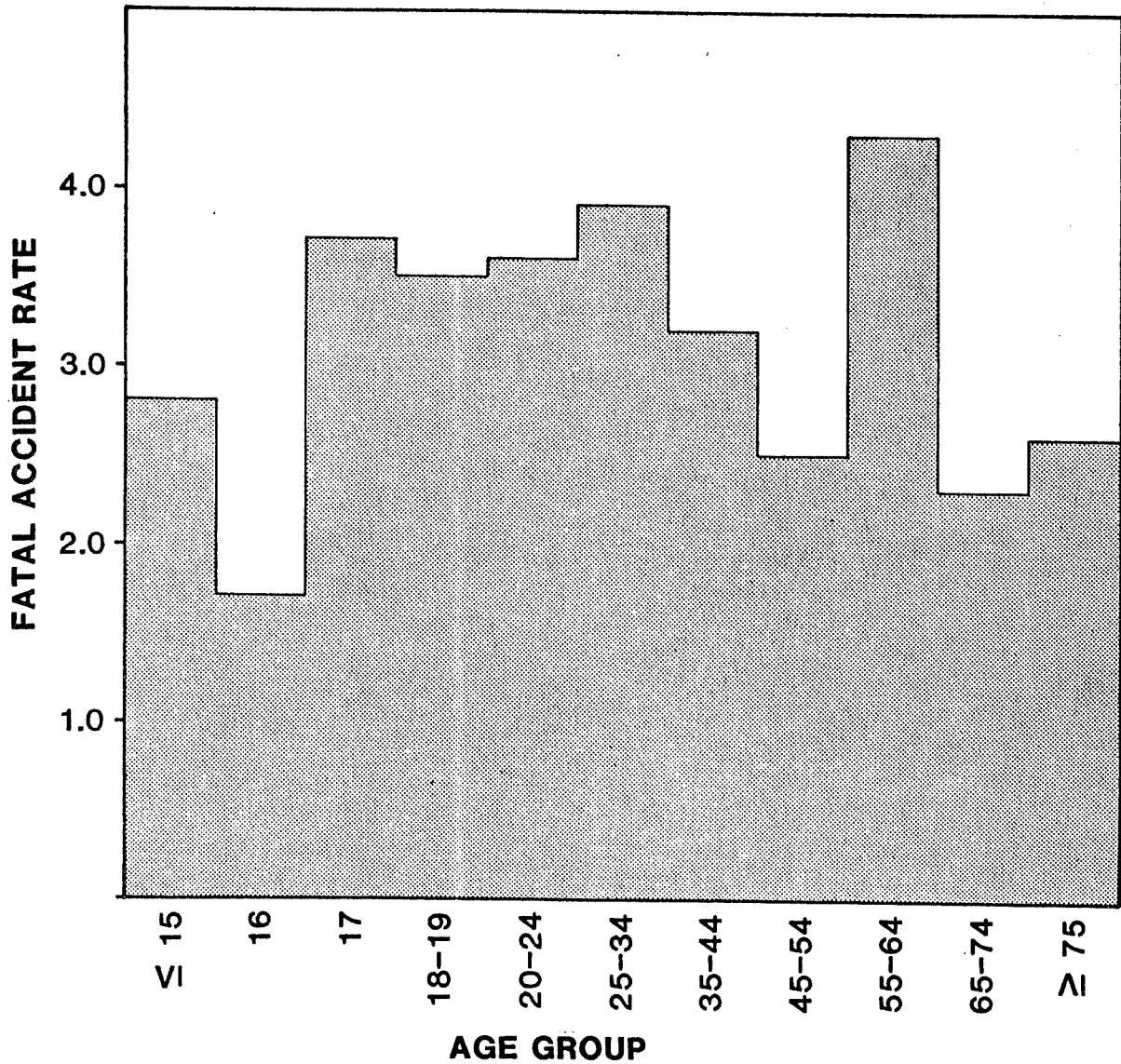
Do you favor or oppose a national law that would raise the legal drinking age in all states to 21?

National Drinking-Age Law

| | Favor | Oppose | No opinion |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| | % | % | % |
| NATIONAL | 77 | 20 | 3 |
| Men | 74 | 23 | 3 |
| Women | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| 18-20 years | 58 | 38 | 4 |
| 21-29 years | 72 | 24 | 4 |
| 30-49 years | 77 | 20 | 3 |
| 50 and over | 83 | 14 | 3 |
| College education | 70 | 28 | 2 |
| High school | 80 | 17 | 3 |
| Grade school | 78 | 14 | 8 |
| East | 82 | 16 | 2 |
| Midwest | 78 | 18 | 4 |
| South | 70 | 24 | 6 |
| West | 76 | 21 | 3 |

**SINGLE VEHICLE ALCOHOL RELATED
FATAL ACCIDENTS
1975-1982**

**FATAL ALCOHOL ACCIDENTS
PER
100 ALCOHOL ACCIDENTS
BY
AGE GROUP**



K. N.

KEITH FARRAR
REPRESENTATIVE, 124TH DISTRICT
STEVENS, GRANT, STANTON,
MORTON, HASKELL COUNTIES
STAR ROUTE
HUGOTON, KANSAS 67951



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRMAN: JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION
VICE-CHAIRMAN: ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
MEMBER: WAYS AND MEANS

STATEMENT BY REP. KEITH FARRAR

Before the House Federal & State Affairs Committee

Monday, February 13, 1984 on HB 2651 and 2792

House Bills 2651 and 2792 are not designed as a cure-all for alcoholism, but they provide a means to bring to the attention of the legislature, and the people of Kansas, the concerns some of us have about increased alcohol consumption by our young people. I believe the problem is very real, and the legislature should provide leadership in proposing various methods that can be used in trying to help solve the problems created by teenage alcoholism. I believe HB 2651 is the goal the legislature should try to reach, this year if possible. HB 2792 is the very minimum legislative response to the problems created by teenage drinking.

After the passage of the 26th amendment in 1971, which lowered the age for voting to 18, twenty-five or so states passed laws to allow people old enough to vote to drink legally. However, in the last few years some states are raising the age to 21 or in phases, such as to 19, then 20, and to 21. In most states, the facts are undisputed. There has been a rise in teenage drinking, increased traffic accidents involving drunken teenagers since the drinking age was lowered at the beginning of the decade of the seventies. Quoting from the "Kansas Insurance Letter" Feb. 4, 1983.

Atch. N

"In 1981, drivers under the age of 20 accounted for 9.8% of all drivers, but accounted for 16% of the drivers involved in all accidents. Drivers aged 20-24 were 11.9% of the driving public, but accounted for 20% of the drivers involved in all accidents.

A recent Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study found that teen-age drivers kill other persons more often than themselves; that teen-age drivers are responsible for about five times as many crashes as are drivers aged 35-64; and that a male teen-ager is likely to kill four times as many persons as is a female teen-ager.

Some further food for thought, although not statistics, should be considered. When the legal age is 21, this popular recreational drug is purchased for friends who are 20, 19 or 18. When the legal age is 18, alcohol is purchased for friends who are 17, 16 or 15. Persons aged 21 are no longer in high school so their circle of friends are not high school students.

A teenage driver after drinking two beers is much more deadly than an adult with the same body weight, drinking two beers, because the adult has more driving experience. Alcohol makes teenagers think they are better drivers, when in fact, they are poorer drivers. The legal age of 21 gives young people the opportunity to gain driving experience before they complicate their lives with this mind altering drug.

Even though it's hard for some to believe, I can remember when I was a teenager and thought how stupid my dad was, and how amazed I was about how much he had learned by the time I was 21.

I have no illusion that raising the legal age to 21 will totally stop teenage drinking. But it will give back to parents the ability to say it is against the law. As someone else has said in relation to raising the age to 21, "there is only a desire for more time to enable these kids to gain maturity and judgment to recognize the dangers of booze." That is what is needed - time.

My position can be summed up in the words of a Michigan Judge who ruled that moving the age from 18 to 21 in that state was not contrary to the right of persons under 21. He said the public has the right to emphasize the primacy of life and limb over certain social liberties and privileges.