Beverage industry supporting litter bill 'pilot program'-DeCamp

By Lynn Mongar

Nebraska's litter program is being monitored closely by the beverage and canning industries, according to State Sen, John DeCamp of Neligh.

"I think they'll make this thing fly, because they want it to work so badly," DeCamp said.

DeCamp sponsored the Litter Bill, (LB120) which was passed by the 1979 Unicameral Legislature.

DeCamp said Nebraska is a "pilot program" for the industries. He said if the litter program works in Nebraska, the canning and beverage industry lobbyists will have an alternative to offer states such as Iowa, which have put mandatory refunds on beer and soft drink containers. Nebraska voters turned down such a measure last year.

DeCamp said passage of the litter bill will provide several million dollars in federal subsidies. "I think the bill will work despite its stormy beginning," he said.

Paul Eldein, a Trade Association of Breweries representative, said the litter bill distributes the burden of litter clean-up more fairly than the defeated bottle bill. .

"The litter bill was well thought out by Sen. DeCamp," Eldein said.

Cans and bottles account for 18 to 20 percent of the total litter problem, according to Eldein.

Eldein said Iowans are paying more for their beer than Nebraskans as a result of the Iowa mandatory refunds.

He also said Iowa wholesalers and retailers have had sanitation problems in collecting and storing the returned cans and bottles.

"Sweets attract the bugs and extermination is a problem," he said. Eldein said merchants have had problems finding places to store the cans and bottles.

"Sometimes wholesalers will need a separate building with security for storage," he said.

The Department of Environmental Control will be supervising and helping to enforce the litter bill and the Department of Revenue will be collecting the fees starting Oct. 1.

The Department of Revenue experienced some difficulty licensing manufacturers and wholesalers which would have to pay a fee of \$150 for each one million dollars of gross proceeds.

The Department of Revenue sent more than 110,000 applications with information guides explaining who would be affected by the litter bill.

A Department of Revenue spokesman said that confusion arose because it was not clear who was subject to the

According to the statute, the litter fee will be imposed on the manufacturing sale and wholesale of:

- -Food for human or net consumption
- -Groceries
- -Cigarettes and other tobacco products
- -Soft drinks and carbonated waters
- -Liquor, wine, beer and other malt beverages -Household paper and paper products, excluding magazines, periodicals, newspapers and literary works
- -glass containers
- -metal containers
- -plastic or fiber containers made of synthetic material
- -cleaning agents and toiletries.

Karl Cochrane, manager in the Tax Policy Division said the Nebraska law is similar to a litter bill in Washington. However, Nebraska's bill does not tax the retail level.

Jury duty possible for 19-year-olds, but chances of serving slim

By Michelle Carr

UNL students and faculty members may be required to perform a job other than their present one-jury duty.

Under a law which took effect Aug. 24 persons 19 or older are eligible to serve on juries. The law, which the Legislature passed as LB234 last session, changed the age from 21 and eliminated the maximum age of 70 require-

According to Jim Dunlevey, state court administrator,

prospective jury members in each county are chosen from a list of registered voters by the jury commissioner or district court clerk. Registered students may be required to serve jury duty in their county.

However, Dunlevey noted that small counties seldom require jury trials, so chances are slim that a person would be called more than once or twice in his lifetime.

The law also states that anyone claiming a "hardship or extreme inconvenience," may be exempted from duty, depending on the judge's approval. However, these per-

sons are not excused indefinitely and may be called within six months, Dunlevey said.

He assumed that most judges would excuse students if a hardship or inconvenience were proven, but that would not prevent the judge from calling the student back to duty "when they (the students) are back in June or July."

Usually, most counties issue a qualification form to propesctive jurors, whose names are chosen from the registration list. If a person cannot serve, he or she states this on the qualification form, asking for approval. If the judge doesn't approve of the excuse, the person is notified by a summons, which indicates the date that the juror must report for duty, he said.

In the larger countries, such as Lancaster or Douglas, summons and qualifications are sent at the same time, he

Jurors are monetarily compensated for their duty. Jurors are paid \$20 a day and 10 cent per mile, Dunlevey said. He gave two reasons why the law was changed. First, he cited the movement to comply with the age of majority, which is 19 in Nebraska. Because 19-year-olds can vote, drink and go to war, the feelings of some legislators was to allow them to serve as jurors, he said.

Also, the list of exemptions from duty had grown so long, some argued it should be repealed. The previous list had included firemen, retired firemen, ministers, practicing attorneys, doctors, dentists, and licensed embalmers.



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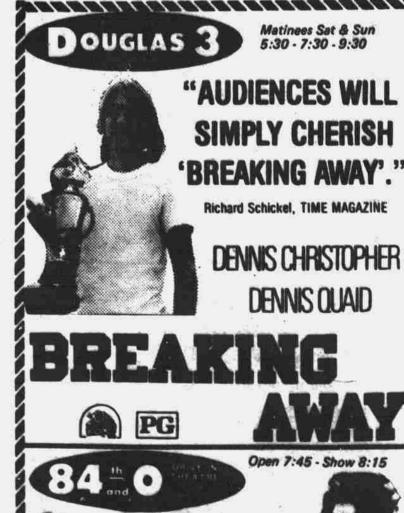
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