

Thone to sign LB221

Drinking age moves to 20 in July



Sen. Ralph Kelly

By Gordon Johnson
and Randy Essex
Managing Editor

If you are 18 years and six months old, or younger, Grand Island Sen. Ralph Kelly, after three years of trying, finally "stole your cherry pop."

The Nebraska Legislature Tuesday passed by a 31-13 margin, LB221, which raises the state's legal drinking age to 20. If Gov. Charles Thone signs the measure, which he is expected to do, it will go into effect sometime in July—specifically 90 days after the 86th legislative session closes in April.

Citizens of the state who are 19 before the bill's effective date will retain their drinking privileges by virtue of a grandfather clause in Kelly's bill.

Those who are not 19 before the effective date in July, will have to wait until their 20th birthdays to legally partake of alcoholic beverages.

An attorney general's opinion issued last year said the grandfather clause apparently would be constitutionally defensible as establishing two separate and valid classes of people the same age.

Third attempt

Kelly, who introduced LB221 last year as his third

attempt to raise the age to 21, said Tuesday he was pleased with the strong final vote, even though the age was set at 20.

Last year, Kelly said young people "feel like someone stole their cherry pop," when they heard about the bill.

Tuesday, he said, "Now we are finally ready to attack the problem of teen-age drinking." Kelly said he will seek a \$270,000 appropriation for teen-age alcoholic treatment centers across the state, to follow up passage of the bill.

The centers would use existing facilities, but teen-agers need to be separated from adult alcoholics because teens take longer than adults to treat.

Kelly also said he plans to wait "at least two years," and may try to raise the age to 21 again, depending on his perception of LB221's effectiveness.

Kelly's first two attempts to raise the age to 21 died in the Legislature's Miscellaneous Subjects Committee without being advanced to the unicameral floors.

Public testimony

The same committee heard public testimony on the bill last year, and again did not advance it to the floor. However, the full Legislature brought the bill from committee.

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Other Big Eight trustees would take gold coins

By Michelle Carr

Given the choice of accepting or refusing a \$1 million donation of Krugerrand gold coins, five officials of Big Eight universities said they would accept.

Members of the UNL African Peoples Union asked last week that the NU Foundation return the donation of 1,300 Krugerrands by James and Jessie Coe of Phoenix. Also, ASUN passed a resolution last week advocating the return of the coins and an end to all economic involvement of the university with South Africa.

Administrators from five Big Eight universities were asked the \$1 million question. Officials from the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University were not available for comment.

Dwight Roberts, president of the University of Colorado Foundation, said, "I'd like to have the problem Woody Varner (chairman of the NU Foundation) has."

Roberts said that the CU Foundation would accept a donation similar to the one donated to the NU Foundation, if the CU Foundation was unaware of protests, as the NU Foundation had been.

He said that if a future donation of South African coins were made to CU, the foundation would "look at what happened at Nebraska" and see how they handled the situation.

Roberts said that if CU was caught in a situation similar to UNL, he would suggest that the recipients of the money contributed, for example students receiving scholarships, should decide if they want to accept or refuse the contribution.

"If they, (beneficiaries of a contribution) didn't want it, they wouldn't receive it," he said.

All administrators interviewed said that their universities have no specific policies regarding contributions with political overtones.

Gold prices

Joe Morton, a plan-giving officer of the ISU Foundation, said that the ISU Foundation would "accept any gift and any gift with gold in it. Especially with the way gold prices are now."

Morton said that all contributions made to ISU are discussed with the governing board, but added that the foundation has no set policy for accepting or refusing contributions.

According to Arthur Loub, the executive vice president of the KSU Foundation, the university "would definitely accept coins if they are gold."

Loub said the KSU Foundation has to look at the situation "pragmatically."

"Our purpose is to raise money," he said.

The only restriction on contributions at KSU is that the gift not violate state statutes and that the donation be in the interest of the university, Loub said.

Jack Wright, general counsel for the University of Missouri said the university's Alumni Development Association would accept a \$1 million donation in gold coins. Wright said the university does not have any specific policy regarding contributions of a political nature.

An official from the KU Foundation Endowment Association said that the foundation would accept gifts of coins, but if the coins would cause protests, the situ-

ation would have to be discussed with the KU governing board.

Stocks and bonds

While no universities have had similar political problems with contributions, according to the administrators interviewed, some universities have had problems with investments in corporations, which are involved with politically volatile foreign governments.

According to James Martin, vice president of the KU association, the organization has received requests from individuals who do not want their contributions invested

in corporations with businesses in South Africa.

University investments in corporations involved in countries such as Iran, has been a "source of debate," according to Morton of ISU. However, no policy on the matter has been formulated.

Wright said that MU has received "flurries" about university investments in South Africa. However, Wright said none of the investments have been divested.

"That is an investment," Wright said referring to the university's South African investments, "not a social problem."



Photo by Mark Billingsley

When winter winds whip through the air, there is nothing like a few extra pounds and a thick fur coat to keep a body warm.