

S. F. No. 1059: A Bill Relating to Claims Against Counties, Towns, and Cities of the Second, Third and Fourth Class; Amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Sections 471.38 and 471.391.

S. F. No. 1136: A Bill for an Act Relating to Salaries of County Superintendents of Schools and Amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 121.09, Subdivisions 1 and 6, and Repealing Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 121.09, Subdivision 5, and Laws 1949, Chapter 477, Section 2.

S. F. No. 1143: A Bill for an Act Relating to Tax Levies and Amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 275.09.

S. F. No. 1231: A Bill for an Act Providing Supplemental Salary Increases for Certain Employees of Counties Operating Under the Provisions of Laws 1947, Chapter 455.

S. F. No. 1235: A Bill for an Act Authorizing the Commissioner of Conservation to Sell Certain Lands.

S. F. No. 1321: A Bill for an Act Relating to Admissions to the State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; Amending Minnesota Statutes 1949, Section 248.02.

Sincerely yours,

LUTHER W. YOUNGDAHL,
GOVERNOR.

Saint Paul 1, Minn.

April 12, 1951

*Honorable C. Elmer Anderson
President of the Senate
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota*

Sir:

I am returning Senate File 144 without my signature.

The bill would allow municipalities in certain cases to continue the issuance of combination liquor licenses, embracing both on-sale and off-sale, although such cities have grown in population to the point where issuance of such licenses would not be permitted under the general law.

You will remember that provision long has been made for issuance of combination licenses in the smaller municipalities.

but this privilege has not been extended to the larger cities. Combination licenses may be issued to liquor establishments in fourth class cities or villages under 10,000 population, but not to third class, second class or first class cities or villages with 10,000 or more population. The bill in question would allow local authorities to continue the issuance of combination licenses to liquor establishments in three municipalities where growth in population reported in the 1950 census has raised the municipalities to the status of third class cities or villages with 10,000 or more population. Without this law, liquor places holding combination licenses in these municipalities would have to give up the advantages of combination licenses when the new census becomes official and get along with an on-sale license only or an off-sale license only. The municipalities affected by the bill are Saint Louis Park, Moorhead and Owatonna.

For one reason alone, if there were not others, I cannot approve this bill. I cannot affix my signature to a bill which would allow a special exception from the general law for the benefit of a liquor establishment whose management and reputed ownership have been connected so closely with the operation of a Gambling Club, such as described in testimony given before the Kefauver Crime Investigating committee in California. Testimony given before the Kefauver committee was to the effect that one of the big stockholders in that gambling club at Gardena, California, is a Minnesota man, and this man is a director and stockholder of one of the liquor establishments in St. Louis Park affected by this bill, according to testimony given in the Railroad and Warehouse Commission's investigation of street car company stock purchases. Another man listed as a big stockholder in the gambling club is the husband of the secretary and treasurer of said St. Louis Park liquor establishment, testimony in the two inquiries brought out, and so is directly interested in it.

It is my conviction that local governing authorities should not issue liquor licenses to anyone who is or has been connected with activities such as disclosed in the Kefauver Committee's investigation. It is difficult to control the operations of the liquor industry and keep it within legal bounds, and the task should not be complicated by permitting the issuance of liquor licenses to persons who have had any connection with questionable activities. I think that sufficient scrutiny has not been given sometimes to determine whether licenses should be issued to particular persons.

I think the time has come for plain speech and straightforward action. The growth of crime in this country and its many ramifications, particularly the connections underworld leaders have established with law enforcement agencies in many states, have become so alarming that all citizens must consider the seriousness of the situation. Responsibilities for cleaning up this con-

dition primarily rests with our local governing authorities and the people at local levels of government, but it is something in which all of us, citizens and officials alike, must help.

Senator Kefauver in the current issue of the Saturday Evening Post warns us of the real danger in the breakdown of law enforcement in this country when he says:

“As a realist, I cannot shut out completely a feeling of fright as I contemplate how close America has come to the saturation point of criminal and political corruption which may pull us down entirely. I look about the world and see once-strong, once-proud nations of Europe and elsewhere where the infection of criminal and political corruption set in and progressed to the point where democracy and national strength were utterly lost. I ask myself—and it is a good question for every citizen to ask—Did the citizens and the legislative bodies of those ruined countries realize what was happening? Couldn't they sense that the mess of political-criminal corruption would so weaken both the moral and economic fibers of their countries that their homelands inevitably must degenerate into ruined, impotent, third-class powers?

“The big question—and I put it bluntly—is this: Has criminal and political corruption which we now know is rampant in the United States, reached the point where this country, too, must follow the downward path after others? I say that we are dangerously close to that ruination point. However, though the hour is late, it is not yet too late. We can beat organized crime if all good citizens will open their eyes to the danger we are in.”

I feel that now is the time when we must act frankly and courageously in dealing with the menace of lawlessness which confronts our nation.

Sincerely yours,

LUTHER W. YOUNGDAHL,
GOVERNOR.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Wefald moved that the Senate on reconsideration, agree to re-pass S. F. No. 144, the objections of the Governor, Luther W. Youngdahl, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mr. Wefald moved a call of the Senate.

With the unanimous consent of the Senate the following business was transacted pending the call of the Senate.