

(Start and Show Film)

In Richmond yesterday, some 400 spectators watched the local option liquor by the drink bill die in committee.

Delegate Henry Howell of Norfolk--who offered the bill--was on hand to defend it during ~~xx~~ a public hearing by the House General Laws Committee. Another proponent of the measure, Delegate Robert Whitehead of Nelson County also was present.

A total of 10 speakers appeared in support of the bill, including two clergymen. Eight persons spoke out against the measure--four of them clergymen--and a speaker from the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Lasting until 5:30 yesterday afternoon, the hearing at times took on the appearance of a theological battleground, as preachers locked horns on the bill. But the proponents finally lost their battle for tinkling ~~in~~ glasses across the bar, and the Laws Committee voted the bill down by 14 to 3 votes.