

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Keyes, will you respond.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Page three, line 18 and several lines following there, after you struck the language of existing law which pertains to allowing a certain amount of compensation to those who may conduct the game of chance, what reason was there that part of the Committee would do this?

SENATOR KEYES: Bill Peters wanted to make certain that we were going to get a share included in the love thy neighbor and everything else. We struck it. We didn't want it in there. We didn't consider it would be part of the winnings of a bingo game, to take care of a \$6 prize, if this is what you're talking about, and a can of fruit, turn that in as valuation, count the number of cards that were issued and the total amount of money that came in, this would be an impossibility to know whether the card was selling for 75 cents or a quarter. I think the cards cost you a dollar for the first one. Additional cards are 50 cents or a quarter apiece. There would have been no way of knowing how much came in, so we struck that.

SENATOR KOCH: This deals with salaries of those who may conduct a game in the interest of a nonprofit organization. The question is, is there some legal factor involved in the Committee's decision to strike that? The way I read it now, those who conduct business, whether it's church or whoever it might be, would not be allowed to pay a salary to that individual who does indeed take the responsibility for conducting that bingo, and now would have to do it without any salary consideration or commission. That is the language you struck. It has nothing to do with the cost of a card.

SENATOR KEYES: In the bingo bill, as it was written, there was no pay that should be received by anybody conducting the bingo game. They were using the janitor, they were using some of the teachers, they were using some of the people that were associated with the organizations who were on salary and letting them do it. Bill Peters wanted to make certain that they could pay them. The Committee saw fit not to let them pay them, let them operate as they are. As it is written with the amendments they will not be able to pay the people who are conducting the bingo.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Koch, are you still.... All right. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, are we talking on the amendments now, or the entire bill? Just the committee amendments? Okay, I'll talk on the committee amendments because they kind of address the whole bill. I've talked to Senator Keyes a couple times about this. He's mentioned that he was going to try to straighten out the bingo laws on behalf of the State Tax Commissioner. I think that's an admirable goal. I certainly will work with him on it. I would like to caution every member of the Legislature that possibly we should sit tight for a couple weeks because the entire issue of gambling is somewhat up in the air in this state now. As a result of some recent rulings from the Attorney General and the Supreme Court of this state, we have to make some major changes in other laws. I think those of you who followed bingo must be aware of the fact that bingo has become kind of big business