

particular time I do have to take the opposite side that Senator Higgins is expressing. The people in my district are saying to me they want local control. I believe that those city council members are equally as courageous as we are when we sometimes have to cast dissenting votes against our friends. That's not easy. But we are elected to look at things fairly. I also think that the local city council people or the local planning commissions are elected in this same manner. They are directly in contact with their constituents day in and day out. They are willing to make those decisions and they are willing to take upon themselves the enforcement of those decisions in either denying or granting those licenses. I believe that the standards of communities across this state vary. The standard that is acceptable in one city may not be the standard of the majority of citizens in another city and I believe that the Liquor Control Commission sitting in Lincoln, Nebraska, is not always in touch with those varying standards as the people in the communities wish to have them expressed. I do believe that the city councils and the local governing boards are more in touch and in tune with those local standards. In fact, I would say maybe the Liquor Control Commission is out of touch because they are too isolated. I think there is one other thing that we need to consider. Just recently in the Appropriations budget we made a change, a major change. I presented it to you for consideration in this body. We took the enforcement mechanism from the Liquor Control Commission and we transferred it to the State Patrol. This leaves the Liquor Control Commission less able to enforce their licenses, their mandates, their decisions. If the local people make the decisions, then they take upon them the responsibility for that enforcement. Our State Patrol is already stressed, manpowerwise, dollarwise, areawise. I didn't think that was a wise decision, the majority of this body did. But that decision along with this decision makes me stand here and say let's give local control. They're in touch with the citizenry, they're responsive to it and they have to be responsible for the enforcement of it. I believe this is a good amendment and I believe the decision is there, if they don't want to do it at local level, then they can go back to the state level. That option is there. It is a good amendment. I ask for your adoption.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: (Response inaudible.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five