

educate their children in our private schools. We have imposed the highest tax nationally on the Catholic churches, on the VFW posts, on the American Legion posts of any state, and these are little organizations and churches that simply do the kind of voluntary associational work that you and I think is the finest work that human beings can do, ordinary people getting together for religious and spiritual and educational values, ordinary people getting together because they fought wars together conducting Little League baseball activities, conducting other noble and worthy causes, and when our own Department of Revenue comes in and says that the bingo tax in our state is outrageous, it seems to me that we ought to listen. But we couldn't listen because this is the year of the tin cup mentality. So I am going to put my bill over and I ask you to support it. This is a legitimate motion. It is a legitimate motion. I am embarrassed about my bill. I am embarrassed by my bill. Maybe over the summer and fall when you talk to your Catholic churches and your priests and your sisters and your congregationists and your parishioners about what you have done, you will rethink it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Marsh, discussion on the Vard Johnson-Hall motion. Thank you. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise to support now LB 295, the bracket motion, and Senator Johnson mentioned the fact that we are doing it to the Catholic churches, not only the Catholic churches, but other denominations. And we forget that that bingo money is actually helping to educate the children in private schools. It is also the Little Vikings, the Little Leagues, the baseball teams, the handicapped, all organizations in Omaha provide bingos only to stay in existence, and I find it, as he said, unconscionable that we will eventually reduce the tax to nothing, to zero, for Ak-Sar-Ben, and yet for the schools, the churches, the organizations, the VFWs, the American Legion, and our veterans associations, that we will keep the tax as it is and vote to in the very near future, I am sure, reduce the tax for Ak-Sar-Ben for several years to come to absolutely zero, which is the parimutuel betting. I cannot believe that this is happening today on LB 295. I resent what happened and I will definitely vote, and I made a promise to myself at the beginning of the session that I would never vote again as long as I was a state senator on any gambling bills, but I cannot let this go by and sit here and not vote on a gambling bill when it just practically destructs some of the bingo games. And it was mentioned that many of the organizations, and I know that to be