

March 21, 1979

LB 164

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is it 972 or 922?

SENATOR DWORAK: 972?

CLERK: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: 972. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, these started out to be friendly amendments. One is still friendly and one is not so friendly so I am going to ask that the question be divided into the two amendments when it is time to vote. The first amendment does allow these charitable institutions to use proceeds from bingo for erection, acquisition, improvement, maintenance repair of real property. This, in fact, is one of the major reasons for bingo by many of these nonprofit organizations is because they use it to improve their facilities whether it be a church, whether it be a school, whether it be a lodge, whether it be any type of charitable or nonprofit organization. The introducer of the bill, Senator Johnson, has agreed to this amendment and so I would urge its support. That will be the first one we will be voting on. The second amendment is one that I feel very strongly about and the introducer, I think, does not feel as strongly about and that is that it would allow duly elected officers of these small nonprofit charitable organizations to handle or take care of the bingo funds. The way the law currently is read an officer must be appointed other than those duly elected officers. I think that when you take a look at most organizations such as an Eagles Club, such as an Elks Club, such as a church, really the people that are responsible, the people that are visible are the duly elected officers and they are generally the people that hold the organization together. Now this idea of getting somebody other than those duly elected officers, in my opinion, seems to verge on the lack of accountability. The duly elected officers then must appoint somebody that may or may not be visible to the organization and that third party or that unelected officer is not known by the organization like the elected officers are. I personally think both amendments are good amendments. They are amendments that will serve the smaller nonprofit organizations and that is what the whole intent of this bill is designed to do to keep bingo in the nonprofit small sector rather than the professional gambling sector and I would strongly urge the adoption of both amendments. Madam Speaker or Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to divide the question.

SENATOR MARSH PRESIDING