

March 21, 1979

LB 164

Senator Dworak and Senator Maresh are speaking to two problems that did surface in their own areas, and the second amendment is one that would allow an officer of the organization not only to maintain the books and receipts and banking accounts for that organization but in addition to maintain the books and receipts and banking accounts for the bingo revenues and what worries me about that is that it might give that officer a little greater ability to embezzle money and embezzlements have occurred in the bingo business. There was an embezzlement that occurred in our area in the city, a fairly significant embezzlement, and I feel that rejection of the second portion of the Dworak amendment would probably be a wise decision for this body to make because it tends to minimize embezzlements and defalcations and it tends to maximize accountability by the person who is conducting the bingo for the Legion Post or what have you with respect to the funds.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you. Senator Newell. Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Madam President and members, I would wholeheartedly support both of the amendments of Senator Dworak and let me give you a personal example. I belong to the Knights of Columbus in Kearney. They have bingo every Friday night. I particularly don't like bingo but I serve my stint helping conduct it once a year for a month every Friday night so I at least know a little about it. The Knights of Columbus like other charitable organizations use these funds for many purposes, and as the law is written today, it is pretty hazy as to how those funds can be used and I believe that this amendment that Senator Dworak offered will take care of this. I know in our particular organization it is used for youth baseball teams, sports, any number of different items, church, items that we think are doing public service, we hope, and for the renovation, upkeep of the hall, it is right. The second amendment and I can't speak for large bingo operations but speaking for an average size, I presume, as a supposedly pleasant evening, it gets into a business proposition I have found, but for a pleasant evening for a lot of people, it is difficult to have more than half a dozen or eight or ten people that are real interested in bingo and who is better qualified to look after the finances than the officers. They are the people that are accountable. They know what is going on and it is difficult to get someone other than an officer to do this job because they are just not as interested. I have found in organizations, and I don't care what it is, that there is just a few, half a dozen or so, that are vitally interested that