

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

of revenue losses and the amount of revenue losses is highly significant. The City of Omaha generates nearly a million dollars a year on Bingo because Bingo is big-time gambling activity played by a lot of older people in our community, and the same is true for Lincoln. And by the loss of the revenues, the loss of the revenues has a true effect on our budget. In addition...in addition, the operation of this unregulated kind of game has an adverse effect on our traditional Bingos being conducted by the churches, the Legion Posts, the Veterans of Foreign War, the social clubs and the like because the professional operations since they are operating in a nonregulated area can in effect pay huge jackpots, huge prizes, draw large crowds and eventually dry up the smaller operations. LB 808 is a very simple measure. It simply brings within the definition of Bingo the kind of Bingo now going on in Omaha and in Lincoln which is totally untaxed and certainly not regulated as a Bingo. And I would ask this...I would ask this body to suspend the germaneness rules so that we could consider the amendment to LB 602A to deal with the untaxed, unregulated variant Bingo.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I think we are embarking on a procedure here that is reckless and dangerous. We end up with a patchwork approach to legislation that isn't well thought out, hasn't had a public hearing, hasn't been debated, and it just isn't good policy. I would really prefer, and as I understand it and I would yield some of my time to Senator Hefner...Senator Hefner, are you listening? It appears to me that the Revenue Committee has heard several...or your committee has heard several Bingo bills this year and you decided to conduct an interim study. Is that correct?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Dworak, the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee did hear two Bingo bills this year and we did advance LB 808 to the floor. I forget now what the vote was but I think we had five or six votes to advance to the floor and it was the Speaker's priority bill.

SENATOR DWORAK: Okay, I am sorry, Senator Hefner, I was misinformed. I....

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Dworak, just let me clarify one thing. We do have a study resolution before the body and this was because we didn't know for sure if these bills would get up this year.