

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Hefner, do you feel then that this is that critical or that much of an emergency situation that we need to gamble with germaneness and violate rules that we have been living with for nigh onto 56 days?

SENATOR HEFNER: I think that LB 808 is a critical bill, yes, because....

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I am glad that Senator Hefner did straighten Senator Dworak out because if you look in your bill book there was several people that appeared at the public hearing in favor of this bill anywhere from the VFWs, the American Legion, churches, schools, any fraternal organization, Eagles, there was many people there. In fact, there are 60 organizations that have endorsed this bill. I was the sponsor of LB 808, a bill which would expand the definition of Bingo, and the Legislature passed the current Bingo laws in 1978 and '79. One of the provisions which passed in the 1979 limits the Bingo to play two nights per week in the same location. However, at the present time the professional Bingo operators are circumventing the law and let me tell you they are playing it seven nights a week and they have Bingo maybe till ten o'clock at night and then they start the lotteries and they go on till two...three o'clock in the morning. It may not be happening in your county now, but eventually it will spread through the State of Nebraska. The look-alike Bingo games are being played like I said every night of the week and these look-alike games are not currently subject to the restrictions contained in the Bingo statutes. And I want you to listen carefully because right now there is nothing to prevent a lottery operator from gaining a temporary liquor license. Right now in a Bingo hall you cannot serve liquor. No statute prohibits lottery playing for periods longer than six hours at a time. They can start playing lottery in the morning and go until the next morning and there is no law to protect it. There is nothing which would prevent small children from playing or being present and playing at lottery games, and they are doing that. No statute currently prohibits the unlimited advertising of lottery games. We do have laws governing the Bingo games and advertising. Nothing prohibits the lottery operator from being paid on a gross percentage of the receipts. In fact, there is not even a requirement that the person or the organization operating these look-alike