

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

other areas around the state for revenue reasons. The Bingo bill we passed three years ago is being evaded by these look-alike games around the state. We are losing a lot of revenue from local government as a result that is falling back on the property tax base. This bill has come out. It is a priority bill. We are clearly not going to get to it unless we use some extraordinary means. I think we are justified in this case in doing that because this is the kind of situation we ought to make an exception for. It is an important situation. It is close to an emergency situation. Why don't we do it? Why don't we bring this bill up? Let's gut 602 and let's get it passed. I don't think there is much argument at all that it is not good public policy, and let's make the exception we are asked to make here. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I have got a question of Senator Labeledz if she would.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Wagner, yes.

SENATOR WAGNER: Bernice, how would you describe the situation if we do something like this? Why should we be doing it?

SENATOR LABEDZ: This, Senator Wagner, to me is a very sincere emergency for the cities and counties throughout the State of Nebraska. I would compare it to Atokad, and I wish Senator VonMinden was here because on the Atokad bill we lost \$200,000 in state revenue by lowering the tax limit for Atokad. In the situation here and not just Omaha, I am talking about the entire state, it is an emergency because we are playing lotteries with no rules and regulations, no taxation, 24 hours a day they can play lottery. They can have liquor licenses, children can play. All the organizations that are involved in Bingo are one hundred percent in favor of this Legislature doing something this year, otherwise we will go one entire year with no rules and regulations on lottery. The next thing that will come up will be gazoo. Believe me, it is true.

SENATOR WAGNER: Okay, then what you are saying is it is an emergency situation and very unusual. Would you say this, Senator Labeledz? It is an emergency situation....

SENATOR LABEDZ: It's an emergency, yes, and....

SENATOR WAGNER:and very unusual.