

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

SENATOR LABEDZ: No closing, I don't want to lose what I have got.

SENATOR LAMB: The motion is to adopt the Labeledz-Johnson amendment to LB 602A. Those in support vote yes, those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR LAMB: Read the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wiitala would now move to amend the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I move to amend LB 602 as amended by Senator Johnson and Senator Labeledz's amendment regarding Bingo lottery, or lottery Bingo. My amendment is an emergency also. It is not only an emergency because this amendment formerly was LB 643 which received a public hearing, the same committee that 808 which is now 602A had a similar hearing. It is an emergency because it doesn't really involve Bingo politics, Bingo revenue or necessarily Bingo regulation in the interest of regulating the industry. It is an emergency because it represents the needs of a good majority of those people that enjoy this particular game, those that are elderly, those that are disabled, those that are too poor to travel long distances to big Bingo halls like in Omaha, those who don't like to be out late at night when the Bingo sessions close. Now Senator Kahle mentioned something rather interesting. He said as long as he had been down here he had never received a letter on Bingo. But when I introduced my bill I received something like...well, I received 18 letters all positive, not one negative letter against my bill, and the cosponsor of the same bill received 20 letters. In addition, when I presented this bill before the committee, some of the people that were interested in this presented a petition with 1,476 signatures asking for this, colleagues, asking for two days during the week, during the light hours, during the afternoon for a Bingo session, so they could go out into their neighborhood rather than traveling long distances, rather than paying for transportation, suffering the dangers of going to sessions in dark and returning home in darkness. My amendment though only asks for one Bingo session. It is fair and I offer it because there isn't too much of a chance that any Bingo hall that is limited to two sessions will ever take one of those sessions occurring during the