

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

week and have it during the day because it isn't cost effective. If they are going to support their halls, their Bingo parlors, they are going to hold those sessions during the night because that is when most of the money rolls in. Unfortunately, that is the period of time when most of the elderly and handicapped find it most difficult to attend. So I would ask you colleagues to take this bill in the same sense that we did the other one as an emergency for people that are somewhat akin to the trash haulers that were in here the other day. Thank you. I hope that you will adopt it.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Vard Johnson on the Wiitala amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Wiitala's amendment. His amendment was in the form of a legislative bill. I believe it was LB 643. The bill was killed by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. It is not dealing with anything like the emergency situation that Senator Labeledz and I are dealing with. It does not need to be adopted. And what his amendment would do, frankly, it would expand...it would expand Bingo activities in Omaha and across the state. The Omaha City Council has had an opportunity to look at Bingo activities on several occasions to vote whether or not to expand Bingo activities because a local vote is allowed by current law, and at no time has it ever voted to expand. The same has been true for the City Council in Lincoln. At no time has it ever voted to expand. There is no need at this point to allow for an expansion of Bingo activities. One of Senator Wiitala's arguments is that his amendment permits the holding of afternoon Bingo games. That currently is allowed under law. One of the other arguments is that the afternoon games...there are not enough afternoon games in Omaha today. The truth of the matter is there are a number of licensees to conduct afternoon games. I don't think the measure is needed. I think it just opens up a field that is very carefully and closely regulated, and I think that we really ought to oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I, too, stand, members of the Legislature, to oppose Senator Wiitala's amendment to LB 602. It is not an emergency. It was included in LB 643. It was killed by the committee. I would like to also say in South Omaha alone I have the names here of the organizations that have afternoon Bingos and there is the Polish Home, Wooden Apple, Pine Street Bingo, Lady of Guadalupe,