

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

Paul the VI, Turner Hall, South Omaha Eagles, West Omaha Little League, Greater Omaha Historical Society. There is plenty of opportunity for those and I must also say that these organizations have afternoon Bingos from Monday through Sunday, so there is every day of the week in my district alone in South Omaha where there are afternoon Bingos. I told you that what I asked for in 602 was an emergency. I sincerely meant that. I don't think any other changes should be put on this bill. LB 643 can be re-introduced after the interim study and let the committee decide whether they want to take additional daytime Bingos. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Hefner, on the Wiitala amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I think it is proper for me to tell you the action that the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee took. In February we held a hearing on this particular bill and also on LB 808. In an answer to a question from Senator Dworak, I told him that the committee moved 808 to General File. We indefinitely postponed 643 which is the amendment that we are debating at the present time. And, of course, a little later the committee voted to have an interim study on the Bingo and lottery situation in Nebraska, and I am hoping that the Exec Board will approve this so that we can get on with the study this summer and report back to the Legislature next fall. I just thought it was important that the body knew what the action was of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Kilgarin. Senator Wiitala, would you care to close on your amendment?

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am standing here wondering who am I to speak with great eloquence to my distinguished colleagues, but nevertheless I am going to attempt to. I understand that my bill, LB 643, was killed in Miscellaneous Subjects Committee for a whole variety of reasons because to open up the whole topic of Bingo is to invite Bingo warfare, and really I didn't...I have never felt for a moment they did my bill dirty by killing it. It got a fair hearing and that was their feeling, and I respect it. I also feel dutybound to my legislation to bring it before the floor, and I certainly do in this case because it is different. It refers to, as I said, the elderly and the handicapped, the older people who can't get as much direct access as they have before. I want you to understand one thing as we fight the wars of Bingo and as we do in the future that there is a