

April 16, 1982

LB 602A

SENATOR LAMB: Motion on the bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return LB 602A to Select File for a specific amendment, that being to strike the enacting clause.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this motion is offered in seriousness and I'd like to ask Senator Johnson a question or two because I had a brief conversation with him about this bill in the corridor before it took its final form and reached the location we find it today. Senator Johnson, you told me that voting for this bill would restrict the amount of bingo that could be played. Is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I did.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, now I've read and I don't remember whether it's in the newspaper or letters that I have received that what it, in fact, does, and this would not contradict what you said, is allow the churches to corner more of the bingo market by not having to compete with the centers who want do do it. Is that correct, or conduct theirs in the halls of sin? Is that more or less correct? Even if you'd use different words to describe it.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No, I don't think that is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would it hinder these types of gambling activities, the number of them that could occur during a given period whereas it will not hinder what the churches are doing now? Is that correct?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: It will continue to hinder gambling activities irrespective of where they are conducted, whether it be in churches or in centers. The current law, Senator Chambers, says that no facility, whether it be a church or a center or any other place, can conduct bingo more than twice a week.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is this bill sought by the churches or by the sinning groups?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: This bill was initially sought by the City of Omaha.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Worst sinners of all, but go ahead.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: That's right, by the City of Omaha. The bill is supported by a number of churches as well as