

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I want to commend the General Affairs Committee for sponsoring this bill.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Hefner. (Gavel.) Could we have it quieter so we can hear the speakers, please. Please. Thank you.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate that. I was the main sponsor of LB 911 which gave local control in issuing liquor licenses. And the reason I sponsored that bill is that I felt that we weren't listening to the local governing board in the issuing of liquor licenses. They could take a stand on it. They could approve them or reject them and if this applicant wasn't satisfied, he could come down to the Liquor Control Commission here in Lincoln and a lot of times get that changed. But since the passage of LB 911, and I believe that was in 1986, I thought that local control was working very good and some members of the Liquor Commission said that they certainly thought it was working good. But then last December the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that the bill was unconstitutional and they...Senator Smith told you why they ruled it because we gave the local governing board more standards to consider by their own. We didn't have that in the statutes and so they said this was uncon...it was an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority. So this bill now, as amended, will correct this section of LB 911. And so I say to you here this morning...

PRESIDENT: Excuse me. (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, could we please have it quiet. We can't hear the speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Mr. President. I will try to talk a little louder. Maybe we can turn up the volume a little bit. But I say to you this morning, who can determine better who should have a liquor license than that local governing board? They're members of that community. They're there to serve the people. The town or city board members know their town or city a lot better than a commission here in Lincoln does and I don't have anything against the Liquor Control Commission members. I think they're doing a fantastic job but the local people know the situations a lot better than they do. And, like I said