

March 7, 1989

LB 775

enforcement. I do not intend to offer an amendment to expand this, leave it within the City of Omaha. But there was testimony to the effect yesterday that only once since 1986 have the Revenue Department, the Gaming Division, had to call on local officials in the City of Omaha for any support or any help with regard to regulation and oversight on bingo laws and that was one time where they had to come in and close down a game. And the only reason they asked for the police to be there is because in case there was any opposition, any folks who decided that they did not want to stop this game or wanted to continue to play, any outbursts from some of the retired folks who traditionally play bingo. I guess they were looking for crowd control support. But they did have to call one time in the approximately five years that they have had virtually complete oversight on these rules and regulations. One time in five years, to me, does not justify a million dollars a year when we're dealing with an issue such as the bingo tax. It is excessive, it should be reduced. And at the hearing on LB 775 there was a letter distributed to the committee members from Fred Conley who is the City Council President. Mr. Conley endorsed LB 775 and supported it. With that, Mr. President, I offer the committee amendments which change LB 775 in that the reduction in the tax is solely at the expense of the City of Omaha and it would be at the level of 2 percent which would mean the tax would be reduced from 10 to 8 percent. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, if Senator Hall would yield to some questions, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR MOORE: The way I understand this, the bill with the committee amendments will affect just cities of the metropolitan class, the City of Omaha, correct?

SENATOR HALL: Correct.

SENATOR MOORE: And the impact to the City of Omaha would be how much?

SENATOR HALL: Between 400 and \$500,000 a year.

SENATOR MOORE: The impact to the City of Omaha would be that