

March 7, 1989

LB 775

PRESIDENT: Time is up, Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Okay.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beck, please.

SENATOR BECK: The first thing that I would like to say toward this...toward the amendment is that our figures are not correct and this may put some of the urban senators feeling a little bit better, at least, about Omaha. The correct figures from July 1, 1987 to June 30 of 1988, bingo gross receipts for Douglas County, which is primarily the bingo games in Omaha, was 10 million...the receipts were \$10,082,365, which means that at 4 percent the city tax, Omaha city tax, was \$403,294 and a 2 percent reduction would just result in a loss of \$201,647 to the City of Omaha. Now, that sounds as if it's a considerable amount of money and I'm sure it is, but I believe, especially from the testimony that we heard yesterday, that that is a fair amount and I just wanted to correct those figures. The Pages are passing out some materials to you that have been collected on this bill. It's a very simple bill and, again, I would be amenable to amendments to it, but it's a bill that came in from direct constituent input. I wanted to make it simple. I wanted to make it as easy as possible on everyone. I don't think any of us mind paying a tax if we get a service and we're not...they're not getting a service and so that's what I would have to say at this moment unless there are questions of me.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I don't know if you saw in your committee listings or not but I voted for the bill out of committee. This is a reversal for me and I guess I can tell you a little bit of what went into my vote. I sat in the Revenue Committee hearing and normally I have opposed measures like this but Councilman Conley came in, said basically Omaha didn't need the money, that it was an acceptable arrangement as far as he was concerned and I took that to be the word of Omaha. I did not hear opposition from the lobbyist for Omaha. I took that as a pretty close signal. Frankly, in the back of my mind, I was thinking LB 346, the private school tax credit bill, is coming up and I don't think I'm probably going to be amenable to that. On the other hand, here is a measure that puts \$200,000 back into the hands of people who are running private schools and the like in Omaha.