

organizations. They basically break even, at best, on bingo and they pay their prize money, they pay their taxes and what little money they are able to raise through the sale of pickle cards is what they use on their good deeds. I would urge that the committee amendments be adopted because it does affect a vast majority of the bingo games and charities that exist in the City of Omaha and would provide for additional funds in this area that the city, themselves, admit that they do not have the funds to supplement these organizations with. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz, please, followed by Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, rise in support of the committee amendments and definitely, as co-sponsor of LB 775, I support LB 775. Yesterday when we were discussing in committee LB 660 I asked the Tax Commissioner whether the City of Omaha...usually they say that revenue is needed because of police and fire protection and I asked the Tax Commissioner whether or not at any time the police department was called at a bingo game. And he said, yes, on one occasion, and that was when they were closing down a bingo game that they thought was operating illegally and so in all the years that they've been receiving the tax, the bingo tax, they only had called out the police once. I even made the remark that the bingos that I attended recently, most of the people attending there were senior citizens and I didn't think that there would be any rioting or any need to call the police department to a bingo game and he admitted that, that that was the only time that they ever called the police department for fear that there may have been a confrontation in closing down the bingo game. So I strongly support the committee amendments. I also strongly support reducing the tax, not only for the state but for the cities. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President and members of the body, I think that I also support the committee amendments, also support the bill, because I serve on both the Revenue Committee and also the General Affairs Committee and also, as Rod Johnson said yesterday, we did hear LB 660 which, you know, is the big pickle and lottery bills, we've heard these all the time. Another thing that has occurred and we have a keno bill and we're going