

need that money. I think they probably would, at this point, they would argue about that. And, certainly, Senator Hall nor I, nor anyone else on the bill wants to hurt the City of Omaha but we're looking at an issue here where we're using, first of all, this is money and we're only...they're receiving \$400,000 a year, as of the last accounting period, we're cutting that \$200,000. That money will directly go back to the charities to be used within the Omaha community. You have been passed out from the Pages an entire scenario on this bill. First, with a letter from Fred Conley, you have all the facts and figures as to the rate of Nebraska's bingo tax being the highest, and so forth. We have called...or we have letters included in the packet from various departments within the city telling us that, first of all, they haven't done any...had to be called to bingo parlors. It tells you that the bingo license fee is \$10.00 annually. They receive an annual bingo license fee in addition to the tax money that comes in. I think we see also that we have talked to the fire inspection and asked them about the costs. At the very most, we found that any cost to the City of Omaha, at the very most, is about \$7,900 per year and if you will read through the packet, you know, that will better explain to you what their costs are. And I think...I believe in the fact of private dollars. Private dollars, that \$200,000 injected back into the Omaha community will do more than an equal amount of \$200,000 on the city level and this money is collected for inspection and for enforcement and it's not being set aside for that. Two hundred thousand dollars is an ample amount for the city to use in connection with the reasons for having those inspections and other things. Two hundred thousand dollars is an ample amount for that and I think that \$200,000 sent back directly to the charities...and some of you might say, well, no, it won't go to the charities, it will be taken by the operators, that's not true, because they have to keep such a strict amount of accounting. Yesterday we heard people say how...what hypocrisy is involved in this particular taxing system. And so I would like to lay Senator Crosby's fears at rest and ask you to vote for the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Beck, would you yield to a question at this point?

SENATOR BECK: Yes, sir.