

on. I did not want to fight that political muscle because it was a no-win situation. The City of Omaha has said, in effect, okay, we're willing to look at this. Yes, there is a need there on the part of the charities. We will give up a portion of this tax. Whether they vote again and say no at this point makes no difference to me. The issue is still clear that they have stated it's not something that they need and that the provisions in LB 775, as amended by the committee amendments, are good provisions and allow for that money to flow where it's most needed and that's to the charities.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, on the committee amendments, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I would like to ask Senator Beck a couple of questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Beck, would you respond?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Beck, as I have been listening to your responses to previous questions, I take it that your goal here is to lower the tax on bingo operators. Is that correct?

SENATOR BECK: Well, they're taxed on their gross profit and, of course, that's not bingo opera...well, I guess it's bingo operators. Yes, but primarily those are, well, I would say all of them are charitable organizations, various churches, VFW, that type of thing. So, yes, I guess that's...I do want to lower the tax on their gross profit so that they will have more of their gross proceeds so that ultimately they will have more profit to put back into their organization.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: As I read the original bill, your goal was to lower the tax for both the cities and the state. As the committee amendments now stand, that would only include Omaha. As I said, you, I guess, are in agreement with Senator Hall and the Revenue Committee that the city has no right to tax the bingo games being played in Omaha. Is that correct?

SENATOR BECK: Oh, no. No, I think we need to go back on that one, Senator Johnson. Yes, they have...they have a...well, I don't want to say they have no right. I mean, the state now has that right. At one time the city had the right and we're just