

place when the cities, of course, did provide for the regulation with regard to bingo and, at that point in time, they very justly deserved it. What this does is it cuts in half the amount of money that the City of Omaha receives because they do nothing for it. The state currently regulates all gaming activities and the City of Omaha, they collect 450,000, approximately, for doing nothing because the tax was on the books and it's not easily given up and I don't blame them. But, at this point in time, they have shown support for a reduction in this tax. I think it's appropriate that we allow it. It will not hurt the City of Omaha and at some point in time they may be back here and they may want to reinstate this tax. But I don't think that, in this case, it is justifiable because the provisions that are laid out in the statutes with regard to the bingo tax is that it go for the oversight and the regulation of the bingo operations. That's where it should go. The question is more appropriately addressed at the issue of we're not hurting the City of Omaha but by not adopting this amendment we're hurting those charities who need these dollars in order to function. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments. And, Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the balance of my time be given to Senator Beck who has chosen LB 775 as her priority bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Two and a half minutes, Senator Beck.

SENATOR BECK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Senator Hall, and I appreciate your assistance on these amendments. Again, it's a simple amendment, it's a simple bill. It is the result of direct constituent input. What else can I say? I think that we need to talk about private dollars here for just a minute. This money will go back...directly back to those charities. They will use it in such things as this, food pantries, children's recreational games, the support of schools, they will use it for senior citizens. We have...I visited bingo games, incidentally, this issue is not about...it's not about gambling, it's not about stealing money from municipalities. It's simply the return of private dollars. We would have to...in the city, we would have to pick up these programs anyway, and they do, they have some fine programs. But we are...all of us should realize that private dollars are much more efficient and that's what this bill is about, to put those dollars back in their hands. They have a strict accounting. You know exactly where they spent the money and I think if you would have been at the hearing yesterday and heard the success