SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The member from the 42nd District, Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Chambers and Nelson.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, I, too, like Senator Wehrbein, had not intended to get involved with this particular bill. Senator Beck, you said you hoped that there wasn't any misinformation or misunderstanding and so I wanted to make sure that I understood the pros and cons of the bill. What I see the dilemma that the Legislature is in is really in two different areas, one, Senator Wehrbein I think stated pretty well and accurately is that if you have a bingo operation, for example, in Lincoln or in Scottsbluff or McCook or wherever, a certain percentage of their monies now, according to the bill, will have to go to the city or municipality for the city tax portion of the bill. Whereas, if I am in Omaha, with the passage of the bill, those charities will be able to maintain a higher percent of their profit because they do not have to, if the bill passed, give that percentage to the municipality. That's one issue. Should we have...why should one area be able to keep more than another area of the state? That's one issue. Another issue is a little bit broader. I think that a question that has been talked about very much this morning and that would be, why should we allow the city, any municipality, to collect money for administrative purposes if the bill that we passed last year on gaming specifically gave the Department of Revenue the administrative role in this matter? In other words, the cities do not have administration costs. Cities like South Sioux City may have an audit but they don't have to have that audit. The Department of Revenue could do that particular audit. So the question is, why should we allow cities to, if you wish, collect a tax money for court administrative services, to wit, the cities are not actually using that money for administrative services at all? Part of the things I had and what I liked best about your bill in the original form, Senator Beck, was that it said, since the cities and municipalities do not need the administrative cost because they have no administrative costs and if they do, the Department of Revenue would handle that for them, we should exclude all cities and municipalities in the State of Nebraska from collecting the tax because it's money taken from the people that the cities are, in fact, saying, we don't need it for the purpose that we're telling you we need it for. We need it for administrative purposes, that is why we are getting it, but we have no