

moment. Senator Beck, yours is the next light, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR BECK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that I have reached the point that I would like this light to be the last light, so I am hoping that someone will...can we call the question, again, sometime soon? That is a plea. The question today is not...it is not morality. This is a representative form of government. People, a number of them, not just one entity, not just one specific splinter group or anything of this kind, came to me and asked me, showed me their records, and asked me to support them, to represent them. That is all this is. And beyond that, I don't really know what to say or I thought this would...we have now reached about five minutes until eleven, and it seems as if we have been on this for a long, long time. Again, I would just like to see the bill, a closing here, move this thing on to General File, and we can work out some of these other problems later on. If I can, I would like to give some of my time to Senator Hall. Is he here? May I do that?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: What...I have got the balance of Senator Beck's time, I see. Mr. Speaker, members, the issue is, you know, one of reducing the tax. The tax here is probably one of the most unfair taxes that we have on the books today because the bingo tax is based on gross proceeds. We used to base our pickle tax on gross proceeds, but last year, in LB 1232, we changed that. We moved to a tax based on definite profit. So what we do in bingo currently is that you take all the dollars that are collected, and you take 10 percent of that away, and you give 6 percent to the state, who does all the work, 4 percent to the cities, who do nothing, and then there is 90 percent left that you use to pay your prizes out, to pay for your expenses, to pay any staff members that some organizations may have who are paid, to pay utility bills, whatever, pay rent, if they are in a rent situation. But it is probably the most unfair tax and we recognized that last year in the area of pickles because we moved to a tax on definite profit. What we do in 775, as it has been amended, Senator Beck's priority bill, is we move a little closer to easing the burden of that tax, and, granted, we do it only in the City of Omaha, but those other communities have fought to keep that because it is vital to their budgets. In the case of the City of Omaha, I would argue, and I have passed