

SENATOR SMITH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to explain, on behalf of Senator Hefner, I think what he did was he knew that he was the next person who was going to speak, and he was going to call the question on his own time. So he didn't get a chance to speak. I will give him the first minute of my closing.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, Senator Withem, I apologize to you. I wasn't listening and I just thought the Speaker was calling me to speak on my own time and I was going to call the question, so I apologize to you for that. But, let's go back a few years when LB 911 was introduced, and I was right in the full debate on that, and 911 gave local option. What this amendment would do would say there is no option, that the local governing board has the full power to make that decision with no option. And I think that there again the local governing board knows best. I figure that they know how their local police force is operating. They know this person that is applying for that license, or for a renewal, they know the operator and the owner. And, Senator Crosby, I feel that this amendment would tighten our liquor laws. Also, like here in Lincoln, the Lincoln City Council would have full control of that, or if they was outside the city limits of Lincoln, then the Lancaster County Board would have full control. But I just feel that this is the way to go, and I just wanted to get that into the record. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you. All right, in closing I would just remind the body, this bill, as you see it here, that everyone is calling a new bill, is not a new bill. This bill was worked out by the committee. There were some points in it that were found to be unconstitutional. What we did was take the bill, make the changes that you see, the new language is all that is new in it. This whole bill is not a new piece of language that I did in my office, after we worked in the committee on it. This is what we did to comply with what the Attorney General said we still had to do. Our choices came down to one of two choices, you either have to be all or none. So, in order for the two-thirds of the communities that already have local option, we elected to go the local option route, and it has to be local option all the way. That is why all the changes that you see in the bill are there. In order to make it be constitutional, these are the things that we had to do. Basically, the local governing board will have 45 days from the day they receive the application to hold a hearing