

bingo. So, you hit us at a good time. Thank you for being here. Mr. Clerk, where were we?

CLERK: Mr. President, the Legislature was discussing the committee amendments to LB 1055. The amendments, pursuant to a request from Senator Chambers, had been divided. The first portion of the committee amendments, Mr. President, dealt with the bingo tax. That is currently before the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, you're up next, if you...

SENATOR HALL: Just...thank you, Mr. President, members. Just briefly, refresh the memory of the members of the body. This portion of the committee amendments deals with the reduction in the bingo tax from the current 10 percent of gross to 8 percent. The 2 percent portion that would be reduced would come out of the local city or county portion which makes up, currently, 40 percent of that overall tax. It would be a total overall statewide cost of \$440,000, nearly 300,000 of which would come out of the City of Omaha and the City of Lincoln, it...the balance of which, approximately 130 to 140 thousand dollars, spread across the rest of the state. It is a question of whether or not we feel that these dollars should go back to the charitable organizations, because the reduction in the tax itself would mean that the 2 percent on the gross that was not collected would go back or flow back into the hands of those charities, the schools, the parishes, the not for profits, the VFW's, the volunteer fire departments across the state that currently use these funds to provide for operating expenses. I would urge the adoption of the first portion of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Smith and Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I intend to support LB 1055 and all three of the portions of the amendments. I have historically voted against, as you know, this session LB 346, that is the idea of private school tuition tax credits. In fact, that measure is not only for private schools but for public schools as well, and my argument on that point has been, not only that it has been found to be unconstitutional by the State Attorney General, but that it gives six of every \$10 of tax credit in relief to the private schools, but that \$4 of every \$10 would not go to private