

always controlled by that local entity.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President, members, I only rise to support the legislation. This is an interesting thing indeed. You know, in some wines there is more alcohol content than in some beer? To define simply that it is all right morally or ethically to drink wine and beer but we shouldn't drink booze doesn't make any sense at all. If we shouldn't drink, then we should change the law to do that. In this particular case, we should also remember that any of us who served on county boards or city councils, and unless we were in a home rule jurisdiction like the City of Omaha, we only recommended a license when they applied to us to the State Liquor Commission for approval or recommended against it. So the state does, in fact, have to define the limits of those controls and what should be done because in the final analysis the state is the one who finally and does, in fact, develop the oversight and do, in fact, get involved with any violations that may exist. It is proper for us to consider this. I don't think we should make it any more out of it than what it really is. Most of the people in the business, in fact, are not only regulated but more regulated and taxed than almost anybody else in any kind of business in the state. I think this would help them, this group of small business people, and it would also offer an opportunity to some folks who would use it, a small majority though it might be, to participate what this kind of...this kind of...what's the word I want to use, drinking activity in the afternoon. So I would certainly encourage your support for this.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. I'll now recognize Senator Will. I don't see anyone else wishing to speak on the issue. I'll recognize Senator Hall for close.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President. Again, the issue really is one of local control and to what extent do we allow that. All LB 354 does, and what its predecessors have tried to do, is to bring some uniformity to the type of liquor that can be sold and the hours in which it can be sold. We currently allow for liquor to be sold from noon on on Sundays. That