

came to me and said we would like to have the ability to begin the process of going to the local entities to start lobbying them, if you will, to allow for this change. As you all remember, the issue is one of local control. It is one of local option. All the E clause does is allow them, they asked for the ability to pursue this prior to the summer tourism season. They would like to have that ability. I agreed to offer the amendment for them. I know the issue was discussed by Senator Smith in committee. The committee just opted to leave the emergency clause as a separate issue. I am offering it now on Select File. I would urge the adoption of that. It does nothing to affect the issue of local control.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. I will now recognize Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members, and thank you, Senator Hall, for putting this little amendment on here so I have an opportunity to talk on this bill. I hadn't looked at the agenda so to know it was coming up. When the bill came up on General File, for one of the very few times, I happened not to be here. I left a little early that day, so I missed talking on the bill, itself, and the idea behind it. I do not like the idea of earlier hours on Sunday, even in Omaha. This day and age when we are working so hard to take drunk drivers off the road, and to help people who have an alcoholism problem, and the whole picture of drugs and alcohol, it seems to me we keep adding these little incentives, if you will use that word, to give them opportunity to drink earlier in the day. Now the real alcoholic, I know, holes up at home, a lot of them, but a lot of them are out there, driving, going to the bars, having lunch, brunch, whatever, on Sunday noon, and consuming wine. I think mostly it is wine on Sunday. I guess that is their privilege under our laws, but here we are again giving them another opportunity. I know of a couple in Omaha two or three years ago, who were on...broad daylight on Sunday afternoon up near the old tech high school building, and a drunk driver came...a young woman came across the median, smashed into their car headlong and the husband was killed, the woman had serious injuries. So, you see, it does happen any time of the day, and the reason I am speaking today is simply because I didn't have the opportunity. I am going to vote against the amendment. I will not give them the emergency clause. If they can't wait until September or whenever the time comes, well, I am sorry, but I am not going to vote for it, and in Final Reading, I will