

gambling, which I don't know the answer to, but I don't know if Senator Smith would be able to yield to that. I don't know if she has seen that letter, but let me just say that initially the bill looked innocuous and without problem, and I didn't have much objection, but if, in fact, no other state has allowed underage individuals to do gambling, then that certainly concerns me a great deal. Senator Smith, do you know the letter I am referencing and do you know the answer if that, in fact, is the case?

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: No, I am not aware of the letter, and I will respond to the committee's reasoning behind sending this bill out of committee with the amendments that we attached to it when my time comes unless you would like to have me speak to that.

SENATOR WESELY: All right, but you don't know the answer that we would be the first state in the nation to allow this?

SENATOR SMITH: No, I am not aware of that.

SENATOR WESELY: I am going to have copies run and this letter distributed. I think, again, it is probably...the way the committee amended it, it is not an unreasonable proposal with the provisions of an adult, I believe, having to be on the premises and no alcohol and that sort of thing. And so I felt like the committee had dealt with a lot of my concerns, but I think Senator Wehrbein is right to raise the issue. Starting early, bingo seems innocuous, obviously. It is not a problem for the most part, and so it doesn't seem like a big issue, perhaps, but at the same time, we are talking about prize money and I guess there is a limit of \$25 in prize money. So the bill attempts to try and be reasonable here. It is not an unreasonable proposal, but if we are breaking the barrier, if we're breaking through where no other state has broken through before to allow minors to gamble, that really worries me. I don't want that reputation for Nebraska, and so that is a major concern for me, and until somebody answers the question about that, I do plan to support the Wehrbein amendment and encourage others to consider it carefully. It seems as though it is an important issue we should address.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I am going to recognize the Speaker now. Speaker Baack.