

of the matter is that we ought to think long and hard every time we go about changing the Constitution of Nebraska. Is it appropriate to put in the Constitution phrases such as "that a liquor license shall not constitute property and entitlement or any interest therein. It shall be merely a personal privilege"? That may be the way we view liquor licenses. That may be the way we view a lot of licenses that we grant for different business activities. But the fact of the matter is that we can't put minutia in the Constitution or we shouldn't be putting minutia in the Constitution. The Constitution should stand as a fundamental document by which we govern our state. It should have fundamental principles in it. It should not have specific provisions such as this for every little problem that comes along that we need to be amending the Constitution. That's just not something that is appropriate for us as a Legislature to be doing. We're going to be talking about a number of constitutional changes this legislative session, primarily in the tax area. And those are the areas that we need to be looking at the Constitution about changing the fundamental document that we have, not a small provision regulating what municipalities can and can't do with respect to liquor licenses. I think that what we need to do is we need to keep a handle on the way that we issue liquor licenses at the state level. We need to have a Liquor Control Commission that has some oversight. We need to grant municipalities those powers that we deem appropriate, but we don't need to be amending the Constitution in the manner that LR 9 would do, putting an issue in front of the voters, having an additional ballot measure for something of this type. I would urge that you vote with me to indefinitely postpone LR 9. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. I'll now recognize senators wishing to address the motion to indefinitely postpone. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. I rise in opposition to indefinitely postpone. I think this is something that the cities have been trying to control for several years. We passed something I think two years ago and this is a way for the cities to control what happens to their cities. And I think the people of Nebraska have that right in their cities whether or not they want to control liquor license in their own towns. So I think rather than to indefinitely postpone at this time I think this bill needs to be moved on. I think it's something that the people of Nebraska need to decide