

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay, Senator Robak, we will take up your motion now.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I will just be real brief, and I don't...I mean this privilege or right, that can be debated, and it can be solved by the Legislature and by the voters and everything else, but I think if we are going to put into the Constitution exactly what we have in the statutes is absolutely unnecessary now. And I think in the future this could be quite harmful, and if we don't need a Liquor Commission to finally give the final word of give it all to local control, let's just do away with the Liquor Commission then, and let it up to the Legislature. I think this is a very bad piece of legislation to be put in our State Constitution. I just move that we indefinitely postpone LR 9. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Will, followed by Senators Schellpeper and Cudaback. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Madam President and members of the body, I rise in support of the motion to indefinitely postpone. I think what we have on LR 9 following the debate today is we have a proposal to change the Constitution of Nebraska that does one of two things and, from the debate, it is unclear which it does. It either does nothing, it simply affirms what is going on now with respect to the way the liquor licenses are handled, and if that is the case, I would submit that that is the very best argument to kill this resolution because there is absolutely no reason to amend the Constitution if it is not changing anything. Obviously, we should reserve the right to propose constitutional amendments, to the electorate, to put them on the ballot for issues that are of a sufficient importance that they merit spending the money to print them on the ballot, and having the voters educate themselves about them. On the other hand, if LR 9 does something, if it does constitute a shift in the way that liquor licenses are approved and who approves them, and if it does give additional powers to municipalities, I think that amending the Constitution to say something like that is going after a fly with a sledgehammer. It is simply something that probably we can handle as a Legislature, we can handle within the confines of court decisions that we have had. We can structure the Liquor Control Commission such that it fairly deals with decisions that have been made at the local level, that we have a balance between the state level and the local