

February 1, 1996 LB 964

SENATOR LYNCH: Is...you know I can't...you know I fought the battle in '84 in Chicago at the Democratic convention and I know what Mr. Daly was like, and so I don't disagree at all with what you said about the ward bosses. In fact I've got a picture hanging in my office, ward boss. Take a look and see if it looks like the guy your neighbor talked to. But what's the difference between a ward boss telling your friend how to vote or this Legislature telling Nebraskans, as it involves gambling, you can't vote? I don't think there's any difference at all and I would like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Schimek who would like to reexplain the amendment again.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Lynch. I've had a number of people come to my desk and ask me what this amendment is, so I think it's time to get back to the amendment and to explain what it is. It's very simple. It's on page 4, Section 4, and it deletes paragraph (1). Paragraph (1) says the political subdivision has a population of 5,000 or less. By taking it out, the effect of the amendment is to make this bill apply to all political subdivisions no matter what the population. Now, I feel pretty passionately about this, probably as passionately as Senator Witek feels on the other side because why shouldn't Lancaster County, excuse me, why shouldn't Lancaster County be allowed to try this? The bill is permissive. Lancaster County doesn't have to try it if Lancaster County doesn't want to try it. All I'm asking you to do in this amendment is let Lancaster County decide whether it wants to or not. It's real simple. I think that some of the arguments I've been hearing here are almost...I'd hate to qualify them as...or call them ridiculous, but the idea that somebody could go door to door on one of these issues when people have their ballots in their home, force their way into people's houses, spend 20, 30, 40 minutes, whatever it would take to convince somebody as to how they should vote on an issue, to think that that kind of organization could take place on an issue that would be on a mail-in ballot. I mean, I'd love to see that kind of organization during an election in Nebraska. We don't have that kind of door to door activity on any issue. I would say that the best that ever happens is people get "leafletted". Very rarely does anybody ever come to your door, knock on it, and try to convince you how to vote one way or the