

March 28, 1996

LB 687
LR 43

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you. How much time do we...

SPEAKER WITHEM: You have about five minutes.

SENATOR HILGERT: How much on the bill, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There would be eight minutes.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you. Yeah, I won't use all of the remainder of the time. Some of you, if you remember the debate during LR 43CA, I was the senator that stood up and talked about on how our charities are being, are being clobbered and... in Omaha since the casino has opened up. I encourage the body to support 687. In fact, I had an interesting letter from one of the individuals who is the most ardent enemies of 43CA in my district, I have a letter here from the good Father asking me to support 687. When we talked about the evils of gambling, they talked about the social costs and so forth, I'd remind the body that at bingo games it is against the law to consume alcohol. I mean these are wholesome games for good charitable purposes. I also have a petition here from the American Legion. I would remind the body that there is, statewide there is 224 Class I bingo operations, there is 40 Class II, and I would draw your attention that there was 15,000 bingo games conducted in the state of Nebraska. The attendance reported was \$1.3 million. I think that this is a matter of equity and justice. And please consider advancing 687 to Select. We can talk about, of course, on Select, the keno increase, but please consider advancement of this because our charities really are suffering, they really need relief, and I wish the body would show some compassion to these worthy charities, veterans' organizations, youth athletics, even volunteer fire departments, and please support this legislation, move it forward. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Schellpeper, on the motion to advance.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I really don't know what I want to do with the bill now since the committee amendments weren't adopted. It has really changed the complexion of the bill because I think the committee amendments were designed to help just bingo. Now we're back to raising the keno tax. And I don't have a problem raising the