

March 21, 1979

LB 164

against the Newell amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak to the Newell amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, just a little bit, briefly. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have gotten something like between four and five thousand letters on this now from people supposedly wanting me to lead the opposition to the Johnson bill. I advised them that I definitely am not going to do that and I gave Senator Johnson the letters to play with or wallpaper his walls or whatever. Now those of you who were here last year at this time, remember when we wrote the bingo laws they were structured almost identical to what the little amendments he is proposing and you may remember the reason I warned you we needed this was because these types of operations were developing. You all remember that exactly. I said, Senator Bernice Labeledz maybe remembers, I said the bill as we have it written will work to stop this if there is some honesty and integrity among the people involved. Now the violations that are occurring could be stopped under present law but they are not going to be. So supposedly, if you are going to stop them, you are going to have use Senator Johnson's bill, but how do those things occur? They can occur in only one way and this is the important part and the part that maybe hasn't been addressed. Now we can scream about bingorama and we can scream about the one in Omaha, whatever it is, Ames Avenue but the bottom line is this, the bottom line is this, and I know I will probably get lynched for saying this, but it is the doggone truth. Some Catholic priest, some Lutheran priest, some nonprofit organization has to be the coconspirator in selling that license and that is what is occurring and that is the whole problem. They have to be an active participant in the game, the game of charade at the law, and when they "rent the bingo hall" and then "don't have any paid employees, just custodians, all this game", they know what is going on, and in that law Senator Chambers last year put an amendment on there. Did you all forget about that? That amendment says any other person, any citizen of this state, some of the other bingo operations who are so upset now have the ability to walk into court, walk into court and get paid for it, for filing an action to stop it. Now my good friend, Mr. Cunningham, the Catholic lobbyist, and the three Catholic bishops, they know what the heck is going on here but does anybody have the intestinal fortitude for one priest to file against the other? No. So we resort to things like this, what we are going to pass, this bill. The methods are all