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LB 164

get the \$1,500 or how do they arrive and when does it because I don't think the bingo money is allowed to be carried from one occasion to the next occasion. I don't know, is it?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, Senator Keyes, the law as presently is written says simply that no bingo operator may pay out more than \$3,500 in total prizes in a night. You can't pay out more than \$3,500 in total prizes in a night. The law further says that no bingo operator can pay out more than \$1,000 for one bingo game but that is a lot of money.

SENATOR KEYES: I know it.

SENATOR JOHNSON: That is a lot of money but what happens simply is that in so many bingo games there is one game known as the jackpot bingo and that is when that big money is paid out. Now customarily the full thousand is not paid out. Customarily the jackpot bingos start out at say \$500. If you can fill your card in 51 draws, then you get the jackpot. If nobody fills their card in 51 draws, then the jackpot may be carried over for the next week and this time they go to 52 draws.

SENATOR KEYES: Does the law allow that?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, the law does allow that. All the law says simply is that you can't pay out more than \$3,500 in one bingo occasion and more than \$1,000 in one bingo game and, furthermore, at least 50% of your gross receipts have got to be paid out as prizes. Now in fact most bingo operations in the City of Omaha that I am familiar with are paying out between 70 and 80 percent of their gross receipts in prizes with the remaining 20 to 30 percent being paid (a) in taxes, because 10% of your gross receipts is taxed, and the other little bit represents the payment of utilities, the rent and the profit which the licensee retains.

SENATOR KEYES: Ladies and gentlemen, if we can keep the bingo games so that the little churches and the little Legion Clubs and every other small organization can operate and remain in competition with these folks who are able to offer \$3,500. \$3,500 will take my car and \$3,500 and I can buy me a new Buick. I don't think that we want to perpetuate that kind of bingo games at the expense of those that can offer a \$100 prize for the evening. Thank you. I move for the adoption of my amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, do you wish to speak to the amendment? The other lights I have on wish to speak