

March 21, 1979

LB 164

is not going to make any difference. It is not going to affect the amount of income and money that comes into the Ames Bingo Hall on Ames Street. That isn't the issue. You can dry up those businesses, you can get rid of those businesses by adopting LB 164 as you have. The Landis amendment would allow for the local option, and as he said, right now it is a farce. It is a charade because you have got it drawn up so tightly that there is no point in having it. It doesn't mean anything and so I would suggest that 164 as written will take care of the problems as Senator Johnson has expressed and others in terms of taking care of the large businesses but really the people in the local community, whether they play two times or three times, that is not going to affect anything in terms of whether or not a large company goes out of business. Let the people be able to play a couple of times a week. It is not going to hurt anything. It is not going to really get at the cause Senator Johnson is talking about. The bill already addresses that. You can do that right now.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland, then Senator Newell.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and fellow legislators, I stand in strong opposition to the Landis amendment. I think it will create a serious loophole in the bill. It will effectively delegate to city councils and city boards around the state the decision of whether there should be two or more bingo games per week. It is going to undercut the important vote that we took just twenty or thirty minutes ago and I firmly believe it is going to create a serious loophole if we vote in favor of this and I urge you all to reject it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: I rise to support the Landis amendment and let me explain why. If you look at this thing, we have this building mechanism that says you can only have the city councils do it if there is not a building available for rent or use or any kinds of things. It is so tightly construed and so limited that it basically says that in any town over 500 in the State of Nebraska, the city councils, the county board, nobody is going to have anything to say about this. I think the local city councils are going to have the heat both from those, you know, if there is a problem. And you know, the problem as I have understood it all the way through the debate, and Senator Johnson has made this clear, that the problem is in Omaha and in part in Lincoln. Now the city councils here are