

May 1, 1979

LB 152

knowledge and everything, and I'm sure he has it, he just told me he didn't know, for example, didn't know maybe the most important part of all, that up until January 1 of this year...up until January 1 of this year we did not have felonies for gambling and the system worked pretty good. The police were able to control it when they needed, they were satisfied. There were no complaints. The only one that complained...the only one that didn't like it and the one that wrote the new provisions, by the way, was Mr. Bucchino. He wrote the new law that went into effect January 1. Now Mr. Bucchino stated repeatedly, and you can pick up the newspapers and read this, he stated, I need the felonies to enforce the laws. I need the felony to prosecute. My good friend, Mr. Paul Douglas, the other day whispered in my ear out in the hall and he said to me, he said, do you think one of us ought to tell Mr. Bucchino that he has no authority to prosecute felonies? Did you just hear what I said, Peter? He has no authority to prosecute felonies. I'm telling him, Pete, I mean Gary, you don't have it. We have made the laws with this bill stronger than they were for the past one hundred and some years. We have corrected all the problems in the lottery laws, the pickle cards, everything else that the Attorney General raised and the Douglas County Attorney, the Lancaster County Attorney, those people raised, and they need to get corrected. They are all in there. Your bookmaking is in there. We have a felony provision for any attempted intimidation or force, or collection of gambling debt. That's where all the problems develop. Now, Peter, I'll tell you one other thing. The local little bookie up in O'Neill or Clearwater or wherever...yes, they exist. There's somebody in town that takes a bet from both sides and when somebody wins they pay off one or the other. We didn't have the enforcement problems. We didn't have these things before January. They developed after all those people got scared beanless and dropped out, and yes, indeed, what you are talking about happens. Organized crime comes in because of what you have done with this January 1 law. What I'm offering you there I think is something reasonable, something necessary, and it straightens out, I think, all the gambling laws of the state. I realize the World Herald isn't one hundred percent in favor of it. I think they will be much more in favor of it the way I've redone it today. I think Mr. Bucchino knows it is satisfactory, but I suppose he will have to still say he doesn't like it. Overall I think it is a pretty decent bill. I urge you to advance it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of 152 to