

May 2, 1979

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SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you wish to be recognized on the Hoagland amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I respect the judgement of Senator Hoagland and this has been one of my major concerns with the whole bill. I voted against it all along just because I am concerned about, what about organized crime. What about its influence in Nebraska particularly with gambling? I would just like to ask Senator DeCamp, if your feelings are different, how are they different and do you feel that the Hoagland amendment will help us deal with what I consider the serious problem of organized crime and its potential influence here?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, I would really like to answer that. If the amendment is adopted obviously I will put the kill motion on myself. The legislation in essentially the form it is now as I pointed out, was drafted by the Attorney General who was a prosecutor in Lancaster County for x number of years, by the now U.S. attorney Mr. Ed Warin, by representative from "Pinky" Knowles office, the Douglas County Attorney, by the Lancaster County Attorney. Now I know, Senator Hoagland, that you as a legal aid attorney paid by the government, of course, to defend these heinous crimes, of course, you probably don't get a chance to defend the people on this. You get the murderers and the rapist and that kind of thing, the nondangerous crimes, but these people that have had some experience in this field feel this is the way they can best handle gambling in this state. They point out that for the hundred years or so before this they were able to do tolerably well, that they felt satisfactory with it and that these problems that you saw develop the last couple months are subsequent to the new law that made the felony. Now I received a letter today from one of the young men picked up in the recent gambling raid. He is probably one of the most average citizens in one of the little towns in northeast Nebraska, he and his wife and three children, prominent citizens in the community, donate to the swimming pool, so on and so forth, and they also take bets from the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker and when somebody wins then they pay whoever the winner is. Now he is up on a twenty year charge. When he was picked up by the state patrol on the highway and thrown into handcuffs and thrown into jail, he was thrown in with a nineteen year old youth. The nineteen year old youth, he pointed out, got out on \$2,500 bond. His was \$5,000. The nineteen year old youth had to turn himself in. He was on a third offense for raping of an eleven year old girl or something. As I say, Senator Hoagland,