

April 7, 1982

LB 602A

CLERK: Mr. President, the first order of business on 602A is a motion from Senator Johnson to suspend Rule 5, Section 2(b), Rule 7, Sections (f) and (g), Rule 6, Section 3(h) and Rule 7, Section 3(d) so as to allow adoption of Request #1807 to the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I am going to ask a favor of you, and it is to suspend the rules regarding germaneness because Senator Labeledz and I are dealing with an emergency situation that needs to be corrected and we are taking 602A which as Senator Cullan indicated is no longer a necessary Appropriation bill and we are going to take that bill and we are going to insert in that bill the contents of LB 808 which has been heard by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee, advanced to the floor, set down as a priority bill and deals with a subject that I know everyone here will think somehow is trivial and yet is very significant. It deals with Bingo. I got a response from Senator Haberman. Earlier today we heard on priority hearing LB 903. LB 903, as you may recall, dealt with special fuels and the reason that bill got a priority setting is because the State of Nebraska is losing revenues hand over fist for want of an adequate special fuels law. Well, the City of Omaha and the County of Douglas and the City of Lincoln and the County of Lancaster are likewise losing revenues hand over fist because there are a number of professional Bingo operations going on in our communities that are now engaged in a variant...in a variant of the Bingo game known as English Bingo. I am going to have a Page pass out a descriptor of English Bingo which was given to me, incidentally by one of the professional operations about a year ago. Our current Bingo statutes regulate what you and I know and love as Bingo, and they also tax Bingo. Five percent of the gross proceeds of Bingo go to the cities and five percent of the gross proceeds of Bingo go to the counties, but this variation on Bingo known as English Bingo...known as English Bingo, is not subject to the Bingo regulation because it doesn't quite come under the definition. It is basically a look-alike game and it is not taxed. Now earlier today I passed out a newspaper clipping showing the City of Omaha coming down and testifying that its revenues from Bingo alone this year are off 18 percent and they attribute that to the use of the variant game. Also in the article is testimony from one of the sponsors of the variant game which is known as lottery, you have to call it lottery, saying, hey, we are getting away with murder...we are getting away with murder because we are not being taxed. So this is a very critical issue in terms