

May 14, 1985

LB 408

automobiles. And Senator Conway was celebrating, and while he was celebrating we put this small amendment on LB 408 that Senator Conway would not like to correct. No big deal, it just shouldn't be corrected.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in opposition as much as I hate to oppose Senator Conway. I can understand his reasoning for wanting to do it in his area. But I, too, would have to stand up for those bingos that are operated in my area, in south Omaha and even in Douglas County. There is bingo seven nights a week, seven afternoons, and the competition would be too great for the smaller bingos that are being held. Senator Johnson and I have fought this battle, oh, I would say, for the last six years on prize money, on number of times bingos can be held. We've got it to a point now where many of the smaller bingos are now back in operation. To raise that amount, the prize amount, would certainly throw them practically out of business because they would have to compete with the large operators in Omaha and we do have some large operators in Omaha. The situation that Senator Conway has is very, very sad for his district. But there are bingos held all over this state. And I think when we start raising the prize money, the big operators, and we have several of them in Omaha, would certainly have the benefit. So I would hope to oppose the amendment. I think what Senator Johnson's amendment did the last time was raise it just a little bit. Even that was opposed in my district. They said we should have left the prize money the way it was because adding another amount there just is going to cause them some problems and in some cases they have to shut down. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Conway, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, as Senator Vard Johnson alluded to, this really is not a big deal. We are talking about changing a provision which currently allows for gross receipts to go as high as 8, which is in the bill currently and I'm asking for that to move to \$10,000. I think that the gross receipt situation and/or the question between the very large bingo operations, those provided on the reservations, or those that are