

of small amendments to it. This is the bingo, pickles amendment to LB 1027 that some of you have heard about already. The Miscellaneous Subjects Committee of which the Vice-Chairman of the Revenue Committee is the Chairman held comprehensive hearings this year on LB 837, and the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee...which is the bingo, pickle, it is the bingo, pickle amendment or bingo, pickle bill...the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee advanced LB 837 to the floor. The changes that are made in the bingo and pickle laws are to make them clearer to read and to understand, to make an enforcement provision in the Department of Revenue, in addition, to earmark some of the tax money from bingo and pickles to enforcement. This amendment raises the tax on pickles. The tax currently is \$2 a box plus 2 percent of gross pickle proceeds. The amendment or the bill, this amendment to 1027 would raise that tax, in effect, to 3 percent of the pickle proceeds but it would get rid of the \$2 a box. It would, in effect, earmark about \$750,000 to the Department of Revenue for enforcement of our bingo, pickle laws. Now my loyal and faithful staff has been working with various bingo and pickle interests for the last I don't know how long to get this issue very carefully refined and we have done it through LB 1027. We have also touched base constantly with the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee, with its counsel, Ron Schroeder, with its Chairperson, Elroy Hefner, and we have, basically, got it in good shape. Senator Labedz who is an ardent watcher of bingo, pickles, lotteries, raffles, et cetera, understands what we are doing. Senator Schmit who is always concerned understands what we are doing. LB 1027 is an available bill to take this change and I would ask your indulgence to permit me to amend the bill with a 173-page amendment. This is not my amendment. This belongs to the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee but I am more than happy to indulge Senator Hefner from time to time. I have an amendment to this amendment which deals with a little tax issue. I guess I would offer that first.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay. Do you want to take your amendment to the committee amendments, then first, Senator Johnson?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes,

SENATOR CARSTEN: Then please do. Amendment to the committee amendment. (The Johnson amendment appears on pages 1948-49 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I think that the committee...the first