

is a bad policy choice. I think in the end that the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee needs to take this difficult question, subject it to the task force process this summer and fall, come back with a recommendation that essentially preserves state authority, provides strong local comment and input, protects licensees, provides equality of opportunity for new entrants into the market...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...provides respectable policies regarding temperance, not abstinence, but temperance and moderation and does a good job. We can do it, but if you pass LB 911 in its current form, it simply is a reflection of a terrible rush to judgment to deal with a problem that a number of local communities are faced with, but, frankly, do not have the right solution to.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, just briefly, I've heard this rhetoric going on for several years. When you want to delay something it's not a perfect bill so let's not act, let's not go to the legislative process necessary, let's take up the legislative process that is long and hard and arduous and you come up arguing with a bill like we did this morning that means nothing anyway. Ladies and gentlemen, this is time to act. We don't have six months here to define a perfect bill perhaps, but that's...those city councils and county governments out there have long been desirous of the authority to run their own situation. They know much more about it than we do sitting down here in Lincoln in the sacred hallowed chambers and they know more than we do. We should give them the authority. We should let them act. It's time to do it. Authority belongs at the local level, not here in Lincoln, but at the local level. They know how many liquor establishments they want in their city whether it's Omaha, Lincoln, Oconto or Bellevue or North Platte, wherever. They, the local authorities know. I've been on a city council, I've been a county commissioner and both times, it was several years ago, but both times the problem was not the cities saying, we need more liquor establishments. It was always the opposite. We need fewer. We want to control. We want to say whether we have 15 or 30 or 500 liquor establishments in the city or county. No, they come running down here and lately especially. It's time for us to send a message to that Liquor Commission to