

PRESIDENT: Before I introduce Senator Nelson for debate, the Chair would like to announce that Senator Lowell Johnson has 23 guests in the north balcony. They are kindergarten through sixth graders from Dodge County District #91 at Ames and their teacher is along with them. We'd like to have you stand and be recognized. Want to thank you for coming down and hope you've had an educational day. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. President, members of the body...

PRESIDENT: The speaking order, Senator, after you is Senator Haberman, Lundy, Peterson, Landis, Harris and Labeledz.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. I'll make this very brief. I somewhat liken this to LB 835. There are many of us on this floor that want to do the very best that we can on this issue and, frankly, my local community has just about had it with what is going on in the issuing of local liquor licenses. We have the local Pump and Pantries. I think there is 33, 34, 35 of them all through central Nebraska and I think nearly every one of those have applied for a liquor license. My question is, if Senator Hoagland would respond, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: If...I'm not saying that this is a perfect bill or that we have the answer. My main concern is right now, how can we avoid or how can we stop what is currently going on in our cities and towns? Our people are worse than disgusted, they are downright mad. But again I want to do the best thing that I can and I don't want to pass a law that is not a good law. What can we do now?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Nelson, my...what my suggestion would be would be to give clearer direction to the Liquor Control Commission. Right now the commission has been told by the Supreme Court that in applying the standard that we gave them years ago they have got to grant, virtually, all applications. We should give them a policy direction, we should give them tighter standards to apply and leave the decision with the Liquor Control Commission. It is a much simpler, cleaner way of dealing with the problem than throwing out the baby with the bath water, and I think that applies to this bill.

SENATOR NELSON: All right. I want to keep this thing moving.