

SENATOR HIGGINS: So, I am going to vote, or I am going to bet on Senator Vard Johnson being right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Labedz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, just briefly on some of the things that Senator Haberman said. In my tenure with the Department of Revenue, a couple years under the Tax Commissioner Bill Peters was a bingo inspector. I hate playing bingo, but that was part of my job and so I and a few other field auditors would go out and play bingo and estimate how many cards were on the table, how many gold cards were sold that particular night and then we would wait for that bingo operator's report to come in and find out that only half of what we thought in gross receipts was returned and the tax collected on that. And he mentioned the fact that a lot of these pickle investigations weren't being done, possibly because they were religious organizations. And back in the '70s practically the only bingos that were being held were by religious organizations and many of them had a promoter that was holding the bingos for them and, believe me, we found so much fraud in the bingo operations at that time that there was actually some of them that had to close down because not only did we collect back taxes on bingo, but we also collected state income tax and the federal government stepped in and there was people that were indicted for income tax invasion, both on the federal and state level, and money was collected regardless of the fact whether it was a bingo being held for a Catholic church or a religious organization. The job had to be done and it was done and done correctly because at that time we did have the field auditors to do the job and we were even short at that time because there were times that we knew we should be some place else and our field auditors were busy auditing a big corporation that came up with maybe two or three hundred thousand dollars in use tax or sales tax so we not only are talking about sales and use tax, we're talking about the bingo tax, the parimutuel tax, many other taxes, all the responsibility of the Department of Revenue. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, did you not want to close on this, please?