

March 8, 1984

LB 744

newspapers, such as the World Herald, which form of gambling devices or lottery devices cannot be controlled, regulated, policed or effectively taxed, the things I am handing out right now, or the other thing, a piece of equipment that is stable and stationary that accounts for every quarter that goes in it, that pays off a guaranteed amount of at least 85 or 90 percent, whatever we set. It is a turf fight between two competing forms and for whatever reasons, Senator Hoagland and the Omaha World Herald have opted to protect the one that can't be policed, or controlled, or taxed, or regulated. I submit to you taking the easy way out which is just passing 744 will create bigger problems than it will solve, and if anybody wins on these things, I would like to know just to see what the percentage payoff is.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, on the amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I am sure that Senator Hannibal has given this careful thought before he introduced this amendment because he is a member of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee, and in this committee we held a public hearing on 744, and it was a very informative hearing. It was fair and I feel that it was impartial, but I am still going to oppose this amendment because I think it is time for the Legislature to bite the bullet, to show our colors, to provide leadership, and pass LB 744. Then, Senator Hannibal, if you want to place it on the ballot, why that would be all right with us, place it on the ballot this fall after we have passed LB 744. Senator Higgins says, here we are, 25 senators and we want to shove it down their throats. We certainly don't want to do that. I feel that video lotteries are illegal now. However, one judge, one judge in one county made the decision that it was legal and I am willing to abide by that, but I am sure as soon as the State Supreme Court hands down their decision, it will be the other way. So I feel that the Legislature should take the lead and I feel that we should take the lead because I think that the video slots invites crime and corruption into our state. I think that it ruins lives by encouraging gambling. I feel, and I think I said this the other day, that video slots in Nebraska are not conducive to the good family life that we have in our state. Are we