

SENATOR ABOUD: Mmm, hmm.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Personally, do you find fault with the bingos and lotteries that occur in the churches?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, I do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. members of the Legislature, the gross tax from those legalized forms of gambling in 1986 was \$3,700,000. That is the tax. It was an increase of 47 percent over what was taken in 1985 and this would be lotteries, pickle cards, raffles and things like that that the churches engage in. When those bills were enacted that approved of lotteries and these kinds of activities in Nebraska and when the legislation was enacted in Atlantic City that allowed casinos, there was a tremendous increase in gambling because there were people prior to that legislation who were not doing it. So those laws increased gambling. The people who are betting on sporting events do so already. The passage of this bill is not going to appreciably increase the number of people who bet. What it will do, Senator Abboud and others who might be listening, is to cause those who are the bookies to buy a license and pay a tax. There are people who engage in sports betting who will not bet on other activities of a gambling nature because they recognize that the other forms of gambling are not really gambling. You have no chance to win realistically. In all those other forms, the vast majority must lose in order for one to win because the losers produce the pot from which the winner draws. With sports wagering, the bookie has to have a bank, so to speak, to cover every wager that is placed. Nobody need lose who bets against a bookie. Everybody can win if they all pick the winner, but if you have a lottery and a thousand people won, then you divide what the suckers put in it and that is what they get, the winners. That is not so with sports wagering. There are many differences between this type of gambling and parimutuel which is a lottery and a game of chance. The State Constitution if it chose, when it was drafted, to prohibit all forms of gambling would not have itemized games of chance, lotteries, these business enterprises or however they call them. It would have just said, all forms of gambling are prohibited, but it did not intend to prohibit all forms of gambling. Gambling is a much broader term than games of chance, lottery and so forth. So, if the state drafters, the drafters of this Constitution had intended to prohibit all gambling, they would have done it.