

Labeledz. Members, the Vard Johnson amendment increases the number of outlets over and above the committee amendments, so Senator Withem is correct in that response, and if everyone feels the same way Senator Withem does, I feel comfortable in letting the Vard Johnson amendment become attached to the committee amendments. But, Senator Withem, I am afraid that is probably not the case. But the real issue is, is at what point do you say there should be restriction? At what point is there no longer oversight? At what point is there no longer control? And what this whole process is about is control. We are looking at controlling the industry at every step, at every turn. My amendment would do that. All the horror stories and the problems we have heard about deal with pickle parlors. Senator Johnson happens to have a distaste for the fact that when he goes and buys orange juice that he can buy pickles. He doesn't have a distaste for the fact that there is also pornography sold in that same store because that is a First Amendment right, but yet we feel that at this point it is important to reduce to the most restrictive environment this form of gambling, and I would argue that it is not appropriate, it is not appropriate to say that these should be limited to liquor licenses only, because when you look at the effect that this will have on especially the rural areas of the state, especially the rural areas of the state where there are limited outlets, there are limited liquor licenses, you are going to see that those individuals are going to be hurt the worst. Those rural areas, those organizations that operate in that part of the state, the vast majority of the state, are going to be hurt the most by Senator Johnson's amendment, and I would urge the body to reject Senator Johnson's amendment and to adopt my amendment which follows which allows for the removal of pickle parlors, allows for the other outlets that are out there that are currently operating to continue to operate. We need to decide this decision because it is probably one of the three or four major points of the pickle controversy that we have dealt with, and the argument to date has been that pickle parlors serve no useful purpose, that pickle parlors should not be a way of life for Nebraska and for the pickle card industry. I think pretty much that everyone is in agreement with that, but to go one step beyond that, to say that, well, this is good so more, much more will be better, in effect, less will be better in this case, is a bad, bad policy decision to make. And when you have off-sale liquor that is sold in many of these stores but yet they are going to be denied because they don't have on-sale licenses, I think that there is a real hypocrisy there in terms of whether or not they are adult