

in here, I know particularly my own self, I've had a lot of, not only phone calls, but letters from individuals across the State of Nebraska, in my district, as well as particularly the six distributors, because they would be eliminated, along with about 100 jobs. All through the session we've dealt with people saying on the floor, we should not be doing things like fee increases, et cetera, because these things have not had a public hearing, and they impact on individuals. I'm going to use that same argument here. I think that this is a...it would have a substantial impact on a number of individuals, and out of fairness it should have a public hearing. I'm going to distribute on the floor a letter that's going around right now which would address somewhat Senator Schmit's concern, I think, as far as illegal gambling is concerned. And I'll leave it up to you just to go ahead and read that letter. But, basically, the state...you'll find in there that making the state the sole distributor of pickle cards is not going to solve the problem of unreported pickle cards, which do not go through ordinary channels. With that, I just would ask you to support this amendment. And again, Senator Schmit, I want you to know that very diligently the committee would plan to study your concerns during the interim. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. I'll now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Smith amendment. Senator Ashford. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members, I just want to say this, that I appreciate very much Senator Smith's concern. I appreciate very much the concern of those six entities whose businesses will be impacted. I understand that better than any person on this floor. And I do not need to elaborate on the reasons why I do so, you all are well aware of that. I want to emphasize also that courtesy of the Precision Distributing Company, calling your attention to the fact that I am the acknowledged video slot representative on this floor, I want to call attention to the fact that the state makes no attempt to enforce the gambling laws of this state, and I say no attempt. Here and there a sporadic raid to harass or intimidate might be carried out. But from the standpoint of trying to outlaw the illegal pickles, or the illegal machines, or the illegal book making, or sport betting that goes on in this state, there is absolutely no significant effort. The only time that someone gets any kind of enforcement activity is if some local individual, be it county attorney, law enforcement officer of