

now, about eighty cents a week or something like that. The additional welfare has never been documented. In fact, quite the contrary. You see if you are going to run a statewide lottery, it is one of those make busier, make work things and it produces a lot of employment. It really does and it is spread throughout the state. You have maintenance of it. You have supervision, so on and so forth. Now lotteries used to be just in almost all the states in the United States up until the 1890s. Then they started having scandal after scandal after scandal and the reason they had scandals was because they were private lotteries. I repeat, they were private lotteries run by churches, run by one group after another. The lotteries that have been implemented, whether you approve or disapprove of gambling is a separate issue, but the lotteries that have been implemented in other states and run by the states have various safeguards and checks and balances so that the lotteries have been running very untainted and they have provided income. Now whether you agree or disagree with gambling, whether you agree or disagree with gambling, I think you should look at the aspect of what we are doing in the state now, what we, as Nebraskans, you people here, have approved and you have approved lottery after lottery, just one after another, and those lotteries are called pickle cards, they are called bingo, they are called all kinds of things but they are lotteries and there is a lot of money involved in them. You also have another lottery and it is an illegal one and it is called the numbers racket and they have it pretty heavy in Omaha and, of course, Ernie knows about that. Evidence from other states shows that the legalized lottery has basically been a way to tax the numbers racket because you compete with it and, of course, the money goes to state instead of to the individuals and it has disrupted the numbers racket in many states. So that is one of the direct benefits. There is going to be some gambling and this way you are simply taxing gambling. You are taxing a fact of life. You also are probably making for the first time a very controlled and honest lottery. Now I don't care which church or which "social group" is running the pickle cards, there are some abuses there and some of them are pretty serious and I think we've discussed this on the floor before. The essence of the lottery bill is simply this, you are taxing gambling. You are taxing the very thing that is going on in pickle cards. For the first time, the state is going to take some of the cut. You are not encouraging anybody to do any gambling necessarily because you have already done that in the churches, you have done that everywhere else.