

had the lottery going for a couple of years, to look at it is last summer when they were looking at...you know, so I think that hopefully that there will be a better job, and I think we can do it without taking money away from the communities. We have done things for the taxpayer. We have done things for the schools or are attempting to do things for the schools, and I think this is a way to help cities that have the local lottery for the community betterment. With that, I ask the body to oppose Senator Smith's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Smith.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I want to thank Senator Smith for her explanation. I just want to call attention to something else which I am sure the committee is aware of and Senator Smith is aware of, but which many of us are probably not aware of, and that is that there are different percentages that are earned by the various subdivisions based upon the different kinds of activity. I just checked and I believe last month the City of Ralston, for example, collected a gross of around 132,000. The state collected around 11,000. Now there are sometimes those numbers might be somewhat different based upon payouts and other activity, might also be a different type of game that would change those percentages considerably, but I think you can see that if Ralston paid 11,000 last year or last month, in one month alone, it doesn't count Bellevue, it doesn't count South Sioux City, that the income to the state can be considerably greater than the \$101,000 for next year than it was last year. So I know that Senator Smith is trying to make it so that the state doesn't lose any money on it, and we shouldn't, we should not lose money on the operation, but so long as we really do not have a state operated lottery, then I don't think the state should try to benefit from it. I am not just procity 100 percent, I am going to oppose, but I am going to support, I think, another amendment that Senator Smith has here which she is neutral on but, nonetheless, I think that at this time rather than to have a 50 percent increase in the tax that is paid to the state, we ought to give the cities the benefit of the doubt, keeping a close eye on them as the committee has done, as they are doing presently, and if they need more money another year, can demonstrate that they need more money for enforcement purposes, I will be the first person to assist in their securing that kind of funds. But at this time, Senator Smith, I regretfully still oppose your amendment.