

were three years ago, just three short years ago, because of the efforts of Senator Smith, and her predecessor, Senator Morehead, and I fought some of those because, basically, I felt that some of the reporting requirements were too onerous, and we did modify some of those. But what we have done is we have cleaned up the industry, and I think if you were to ask the folks in the Gaming Division, and Senator Smith can correct me if I am wrong, in the Gaming Division over in the Department of Revenue, they feel that they have a good control over what is currently going on. Now, they will also tell you that there is still some problems out there and don't misunderstand me. I don't intend to lead you to believe that this is a absolutely, lily-white operation. There are, as Senator Schmit rightly pointed out, ways that you can beat the system and he specifically alluded to the bogus pickle operations where somebody can bring in pickles from outside the state and, sure, they could beat the system. But there, I think, is clearly the best set of regulations in place that we have ever had. The Department of Revenue feels that they need a little more regulation and oversight. I have offered to help them do that. There is some things that they want to clean up. There is some changes that Senator Smith and her committee have placed into one of the priority bills of the committee that even changes some of the things that we adopted three short years ago because they are not working that well. And there is some additional oversight regulation and reporting requirements that are on the burner that we want to address for next year. I am going to be supportive of those. I think we probably have the best handle we have ever had. I think it is clearly with the wiping out of the pickle parlors, we have cleaned up the industry, but there is still room for improvement and there always is, there always will be. But as long as we continue staying on top of that, I think it makes good sense now to address the tax issue so we bring it back down to even greater where it was prior to the...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...implementation of all the additional regulation and oversight. It was put in place as a punitive measure and, frankly, it worked, but now it is time to allow those charities to function with the proceeds from their efforts and that is all we do with this committee amendment. I think that the Charitable Gaming Division has done an outstanding job. I have had, frankly, charitable organizations in my district that have been audited by them. Some of them came to me with