

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am sorry, Deacon Dan is gone but he is probably somewhere within the sound of my voice. I don't want people to become offended or get upset at what I am saying about gambling and the churches because I don't do it. You all give me the opportunity to say these things. If you all do as Deacon Dan suggested like I recommend, there wouldn't be any gambling associated with the churches and a nonbeliever wouldn't be able to stand up and flay you in this fashion. Now look at the good humor with which I speak. I am not angry at you. I am not going to say God ought to send you to hell. I don't want any of you to go to hell. I don't, and that is why I am going to tell you, Jesus said anger rests in the bosom of a fool, and people who are angry like that go to hell. So don't be angry. Just kind of loosen up and go with the flow. You all know what I am going to talk about when you bring these issues before us and I think it is necessary to get these things into the record because many times the moral tone of a society I am told, when we have people like Ronald Reagan and George Bush pontificating, is established by the leaders in government. And when we have leaders in government in Nebraska on some issues wanting to be highly religious and straight-laced but then supporting gambling, I just see an inconsistency, and the inconsistency that I see is not based on my construction of religion but on the representations that those who say they are religious will make to the public. And I say, again, would Jesus be pleased with what you are doing here today? Would he want there to be more gambling in the churches? Is that what he would be doing, Senator Lowell Johnson, on an afternoon in March of 1990 if he were here shuffling around in his sandals? Or would he stand up and speak against it and wind up hanging around again, to use the colorful language of my colleague, Senator Hall, would they get him again? And who would get him? The churches, it is the churches that got him the first time, and people looking at that from about 2,000 years distance will say what a terrible thing. Why would those religious people want to silence a moral force like that? Well, look at the churches today and see what their attitudes are. If he went into some of these churches and wiped out the gamblers, wouldn't they do to him what those who were changing money and selling animals in the temple wanted to do to him? Human nature does not change. Superstitions are updated as time passes, but they basically have the same kernel or core. So that notion that somebody who talks at the high moral plain that Jesus reputedly did is all right as long as that person has been dead