

Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Ladies and gentlemen, this Legislature has over the years decided that certain types of gambling is admissible if not acceptable. We have said that horse racing based upon a constitutional amendment is legal, and there was a time when we collected a tax upon it. In fact, back in 1973, I raised the tax from 4 to 5 percent. And racing fell upon hard times, most of it because of other types of gaming and gambling, most of it, I say most, and I think that I could not be proven wrong, most of it illegal. Sport betting is illegal. It all takes place. Pickles, much of it illegal, is taking place. Lottery machines, we outlawed lottery machines, (inaudible) lottery machines, but there are many of them out there today. We have keno which is legal. I haven't...is Senator Chris Abboud here? If you could use the...revenue from the keno game in Ralston to support the schools, the county treasurer would have to send the county...the homeowners a check back up there because, obviously, they have one of the most successful operations in the state. I don't care what you decide to do relative to whether you approve or disapprove, legalize or declare illegal any kind of gambling or gaming activity, all I am suggesting is that if you legalize it, then you ought to try to make it as legitimately possible to police it, to not give the policing department, the Department of Revenue, an impossible task. Now I mentioned the State of Iowa. The State of Iowa has many kinds of gaming, but the State of Iowa buys all of their pickles from American Gaming out of Des Moines, and there that pickle is designed to a certain specification, and the Department of Revenue distributes them. Now someone says why do you want to do that? Well, ladies and gentlemen, a dollar pickle is the same as a dollar bill. Now would you ever suggest that I or anyone on this floor, or any businessman could go into the business of printing money? Oh, no, that is a governmental function. At least it ought to be controlled and licensed and regulated by government, but when we allow the pickles to be stamped out by the truckload, by the trainload, by anyone who wants to get into the pickle business, and then we say to Roger Hirsch and his group, you go out there and be sure that they are being handled legally, you give them an impossible task. I think you...if you were to have the Department of Revenue handle the distribution of pickles, you would dramatically increase the revenue. If he had to double his manpower or womanpower, whatever it is, you would see a dramatic increase in the revenue because there would be a dramatic decrease in the illegal