

the City of Omaha. How do they pick that up? Well, I can tell you within the last year they picked it up just by having somebody else collect the money out of their parking meters. They were losing approximately half a million dollars a year to some of the folks who happened to work for the city. They probably picked at least that much up in that area, but the question, I guess, is in this case and I think his comments were targeted specifically at the bingo tax issue, at what level do you want taxes to be? I'm going to school and taking a class and one of the first cases they had me look at in this class, Constitutional Law, was a case called McCullough v. Maryland, and it dealt with a...the federal government established a national bank and the State of Maryland imposed a tax on that bank, saying that they had the authority to do that, as an autonomous entity of the state could do that and it went all the way to the Supreme Court. And Chief Justice Marshall made a ruling and the ruling dealt with a number of different things but one of the things he said in that case, in that opinion, was that the power to tax was a power to destroy and he used that in his argument, in his opinion, to basically knock down or rule unconstitutional the state law of Maryland imposing the tax on the national bank that had been established. Really, there's good arguments or there can be a correlation between the way we have taxed gambling in this state. And clearly in the case of the pickle cards, the power to tax has been a power to destroy and that was the intent behind it. In the area of bingo, I would argue the same thing. As many of you know, from listening to legislation that we have had in here, bingo is taxed excessively and it even causes a problem for some of those games because they have had a problem in basically making the bingo pay for itself which is a requirement under statute. It was part of the revisions that we put in in 1987. In the area of parimutuel wagering, we have addressed the issue of taxing time and time again, saying that we want it to be something that is fair and equitable but does not impact the industry in any way, shape or form that would be harmful. We want the industry to continue to thrive and survive. I would argue that in the area of bingo, pickles and parimutuel wagering we want that to happen across the board. Through the adoption or the advancement of LB 1055 with the committee amendments as it currently reads, we have done that. We have basically for the first time, I think, treated gambling fairly uniformly in this state. At least, we have looked at them together instead of separately and as separate entities, making each of them stand alone. I don't know that that is so bad to tie these things together and at