

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. The amendment, which is on page 972, is the amendment which provides that if, and I will read part of it, that if a county, city, or village...Can I get a gavel, Madam...

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, I just couldn't hear. ...conducts a lottery pursuant to the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act, shall not use the gross proceeds from such lottery for a project with a projected total cost of more than \$5 million, unless the project has been approved by a majority vote of the registered voters of the county, city, or village. For a couple of years now the issue of whether or not Douglas County was going to purchase Ak-Sar-Ben, or intended to purchase Ak-Sar-Ben has been...just a second, excuse me...whether or not Ak-Sar-Ben was going to be purchased by Douglas County has been an issue which has been before us in the Legislature. A couple of years ago there was a bill concerning the changing the powers and authority of the Fair Board. Then there have been statements throughout the last couple years on that issue, issue primarily by county board members that there is a desire to buy. I'm not commenting, today, nor is my amendment intended to comment on whether or not that is a good idea. My concern, however, as this bill went through the Legislature was to give Senator Hall a good opportunity and a fair opportunity to discuss his bill, the keno bill, without joining it together with the issue of whether or not this bill would enable, or was in effect a bill that authorized or legitimized the purchase of Ak-Sar-Ben by Douglas County. Therefore, we offered, or I and my...the co-sponsors of this amendment, offered the amendment which provides that if the keno money is going to be used for a project such as by the county or by the city, and it's important to recognize here that this amendment applies to both city projects and county projects, that if a project such as the purchase of Ak-Sar-Ben or possibly the construction of a downtown convention center, or whatever the project might be, with the utilization of keno money, or community betterment money, would first go to a vote of the people. A project of that magnitude, which would require not only the, in case of Ak-Sar-Ben, a substantial purchase price, but also a commitment to ongoing costs of maintaining a structure like Ak-Sar-Ben, or