

a convention center, would be of such great magnitude that the city should have an opportunity to vote on it. I might make another quick comment. And that comment has been addressed to me by members of this body who are concerned about the continuation of Ak-Sar-Ben as an institution. I know senators have mentioned to me their concern that the...over the years Ak-Sar-Ben has provided not only economic return to the citizens of Nebraska, as far as just bringing people here, but has provided a forum, obviously, and a great deal of leadership in the horse industry in Nebraska, and I am also concerned about this, this amendment does not necessarily address that, but at least it is somewhat of a response to that concern, or my response to that concern. With that, I would just move the amendment to the committee amendments that would require a vote of the people for a project in excess of \$5 million in costs, project costs. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. On the Ashford amendment, Senator Hall, do you wish to speak on this amendment?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of Senator Ashford's amendment. It was an amendment that I had to think about a while before I supported it. My concept of why we elect either city or county officials is that they distribute monies that are raised through taxes, and we elect them and give them that responsibility. But I was able, I guess in my own mind, to come to the conclusion that the lottery proposal is outside, should be outside the budgetary parameters of the local entities tax base, that these monies could be raised, should be raised, should be placed in a separate operating fund and used for one-time kinds of proposals. As Senator Ashford pointed out, it's very likely that they could possibly be used to commit either the city or county, or both, to ongoing expenditures, ongoing liabilities, if you will, that would incur additional monies that would be raised in other forms, namely taxes, at the expense, literally, of the citizens of that jurisdiction. Because of that, because of the, I think the cloud that has hung over this issue with regard to Ak-Sar-Ben, I think unjustly, but because of that I have co-sponsored the amendment with him and do support it. You need to understand that this issue goes back a long ways, since I haven't had an opportunity to speak to the bill, I will now, for me anyway, and it goes back to a couple years ago when the issue was, that we're striking from the