

what the Charitable Gaming operation approves and disapproves. I would suspect that had a member of this body or had the General Affairs Committee advanced an amendment which said that this could be a part of keno, that it might be vigorously debated on this floor. But so often in the case of government, we have a tendency for agencies to interpret the statute as they see fit, only to find out later on that, well, everybody is doing it and, therefore, we can't do anything about it. While I'm on my feet, I think it's also important to point out that we need to take into account, again, the amount of illegal gambling activity that is going on in this state and the adverse impact it has upon legal, legitimate activities that exist. Those illegal activities, if allowed to continue unrestrained, can only have a negative impact upon the legal, legitimate activities such as we have now at Bellevue and Ralston and which we'll soon have in Omaha. I will be very candid also. I am deeply concerned about the fact that once Omaha has captured a major amount of local revenue from a keno operation, that there will never again be enough support on this floor for the State of Nebraska to have any money from any kind of a lottery operation. We have seen it in the past, we saw it happen with local option sales taxes and I would suggest that those who think that the City of Omaha will reap only a few million dollars from keno ought to look at the success that has occurred with LaVista, Ralston and Bellevue and also Scotts Bluff County and know that those patterns will be repeated. And it would not surprise me if the City of Omaha will one day enjoy \$20 million of annual income from keno. Try getting that away from the City of Omaha, ladies and gentlemen, and you've got a real fight on your hands because every one of you who come from that area will be hard-pressed by the city to keep that revenue for the city. It's unfortunate, of course, that much of it will come from non-Omaha residents, but that will be a fact of life. So I support what Senator Hall is doing. As I said, if there is not sufficient support for Senator Hall's amendment, then it ought to be drafted in reverse and the exact parameters of keno activity ought to be spelled out by this Legislature and not by...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...an agency director or an agency in itself. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Hall, you are next.