

is one in which speaking on this measure and also on some future measures dealing with amendments to the constitutional amendment. When I first came to the Legislature, as a matter of fact before I came to the Legislature and participated with some other folks who were registered lobbyists discussing key issues in the Legislature, whether or not Nebraska should establish a state lottery was a big, big issue. When I came into the Legislature, appointed in March of 1983, it was the key issue, the establishment or the nonestablishment of a state lottery. Eight years later Nebraska does not have a state lottery system. The approach that we appear to be following now is it will be at least two more years before we have one. It will be 10 years from that time when we first started to establish one before one is actually up and running. In that time span, other states have established lotteries, have them up and running, have public betterment programs being funded from lottery money and are taking a lot of money from Nebraskans to fund those projects. Why has this Legislature been unable to address the state lottery issue? I contend that one big issue is because that every time it comes up it gets tied in with some sort of peripheral issue. Yeah, we want a state lottery but we want to ban local lotteries at the same time. Yeah, we want a state lottery but we want to make sure that they're video lotteries. Yeah, we want a state lottery but in doing so let's ban state lotteries. Well, let's try to do it through a petition process and then that got all messed up. Yeah, we want a state lottery but only if it's to pay off Commonwealth depositors is another amendment that's going to be coming up in the near future. Each time this Legislature has attempted to deal with that it's gotten bogged down in some peripheral issue. I think if we're going to put to the voters the question, do you want a state lottery, it ought to be stated as simply as possible. Do you want a state lottery? Not, do you want a state lottery to pay off Commonwealth depositors; not do you want a state lottery and ban video lotteries for all times; not do you want a state lottery and authorize video lotteries? I would oppose that amendment just as strenuously. It ought to be as pure and simple and direct as possible. If we're taking it to the voters, we ought not to be tying on peripheral issues that will confuse them. Another example was last election, the petition process that established a state lottery, when people read it, found out that it wasn't really a state lottery, it was another system entirely. My approach on this bill is going to be to oppose amendments that do anything other than authorize...allow the people to authorize as clearly as possible that they do, in