

in telling me what he thinks. So could I just let him go ahead and take my place and I will close then. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether I like it or not, I guess I'm the video lottery expert on this floor and probably in the State of Nebraska insofar as legal devices are concerned. And, for the record and for those that do not know, I operated legal video lottery devices as defined by the District Court and by the Supreme Court. The Legislature, by one vote, decided to make them not legal. So what we did was we did away with the source of revenue that was legal, that was legitimate, that was identifiable, that was traceable, which no hint of scandal ever touched, and we traded it off for illegal equipment. Today there are at least 10 times and maybe, as Senator Hartnett said, 20 or 30 times as many illegal machines in this state as we ever operated legally. And you know how much the state gets off of them? Twenty-five dollars per machine. Twenty-five dollars per machine. Now, ladies and gentlemen, and I would guess that those machines are in Senator Smith's district as they are in mine, what do you do if you adopt this amendment? You give the green light to the illegal operation because, as Senator Hartnett has pointed out, there isn't any way in the world that they can possible police those if local police officers don't want to do it. The Attorney General, I spoke to him yesterday, there isn't any way he can get on his vehicle and go out and police everyone of those outfits unless the local people don't want to do it. Then I ask you this question. Why are the machines there? Obviously, because people want them. Why do we do illegal football betting to the tune of a billion dollars a year in this state? Because the people want it and because law enforcement doesn't give a darn. Once in a while they will bust some poor bookie for 20 or 30 grand and act like it's a big deal. To him, that's just a cost to the...that like his...that's a lot less than sales tax which he doesn't pay any of and I don't suppose he pays any income tax either. We have never ever seen in this state a commitment from law enforcement to enforce the law in those areas, with a few rare exceptions. Somebody gets his nose out of joint with a local cop, he gets busted. Somebody places a bet with the wrong bookie, he gets busted, but otherwise nothing happens and you breed contempt for the law. That is what we have today. It's like the death penalty that doesn't exist and the only people who die on death row in Nebraska are