

is going to be after the fact, and we are going to be behind the power curve, and we will never really have a worthwhile state lottery. This morning, and it is a little bit unfortunate, this morning while we are debating the issue here, the City Council up in Omaha is going to decide whether to award one or two contracts to operate the keno game. Now I think if we did...if we struck a blow for justice, we would enact into law a provision that would not allow the cities to award exclusive contracts for any kind of local gambling. I think that should not be allowed, and I think that by the time the City of Omaha gets their keno game cranked up, Scotty, you are going to have trouble getting your horses across the finish line no matter how much money you bet on them, because they are going to continue to drain money from the racing industry and we will see a further decline in that agricultural enterprise. And so I support the amendment, and I would hope it would advance with a minimum of further acrimony.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Lamb and Labeledz. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, I, too, I remember several years ago, Senator Smith said sometimes you get piano fingers here, and that is my experience this morning. I am still undecided and it will be very difficult for me to give a green vote on this one. I, actually, can see no good to this proposal, and it is a losing proposition. Senator Schmit is probably right, by the time that we would get it implemented, everyone would be so soured on the gambling and find out that that quick buck isn't there. I, on the other hand, I am not so naive to know, and we have things a little bit stirred up in my community right now, in the video...I guess I can't call them slot machines because I have never seen them, but the video machines that are operating in my town right now. So I am not so naive to know that it is not going on and the lack of tax dollars, but that does not override my opinion of the lottery. Some will say, well, you have the racing. We do have the racing, but the racing is a lot more than putting a buck in and immediately losing 50 cents on the dollar or 40 cents on the dollar. That is a lot of employment, a lot of horse feed, a lot of also entertainment along with it. It isn't just completely throwing money and sometimes no return. Senator Schmit can probably allude to Deadwood, South Dakota better than I can, but look at their experience. Embezzlement up over 1,000 percent, rape increase 600 percent, bad checks 1,000 percent, brawling family, drug