

but it is not the responsibility of this Legislature to put anyone in business. I didn't use to think it was their responsibility to put anyone out of business, but I changed my mind about that. But the facts are that we do in this Legislature do it every day to one extent or another. But there are ways whereby you can improve tremendously the accountability of the so-called pickle process and it's not a very good process to begin with. But I would hope that rather than just allow the continuation of the hodgepodge that we have today in the pickle business, that we would try to somewhere before this bill advances beyond Select File, copy what Iowa has done and make those...and require the manufacturer to contract with the state and then require the pickles to be distributed through the Department of Revenue so that you can know what you are doing. At the present time I do not know what the numbers are today, but we have been told in the past by Department of Revenue that three out of four pickles in Nebraska are illegal. I do not know if it is that high today or not, but if it's one-fourth illegal pickles, it's too many. We have a responsibility, if we're going to condone gambling, to at least see to it that it is done somewhat honestly and not in the manner in which it is being done at the present time. We know that pickles by the tens of thousands, by the semi load, illegal pickles come into this state and it is impossible to, at the present time under the present statutes, separate one from the other. People can copy almost any pickle that we have in Nebraska and there is no system whereas Iowa has where we can find out whether or not they are legal or illegal. So rather than to protect the individual in Senator Pirsch's district, or Senator Lynch's district, who might manufacture pickles, we ought to be trying to at least protect somewhat the integrity of an already poor bet. I have to smile a bit when we talk about the 40 percent return to the player. That's about as low as you can get and yet we know that those kinds of gamblers are going to proliferate. But I'm going to have to oppose the amendment my good friend Senator Lynch has suggested. I have no objection, Senator Lynch, if your constituent or Senator Pirsch's constituent could draw a contract with the State of Nebraska and distribute the pickles through the Department of Revenue so that we know that only legal pickles are distributed. Pickles are identifiable, pickles have a secret number, pickles that are distributed with sequential numbering, all of those things can be done to enhance the honesty of the game and that's what we ought to be doing rather than try to protect someone's domain who has already carved out a profitable niche for themselves and