

May 7, 1991

LB 849
LR 24

that there are some detrimental effects to the state, there are some detrimental effects to the people of the State of Nebraska. We admit that it's all not...everything is not hunky-dory when you do this, there's some bad things that are going to happen. And I guess maybe the first...if indeed LR 24 passes on the ballot and 849 becomes law, I think we may want to look at expanding the cost of the Abboud amendment to address some of the social ills that I certainly agree that this whole issue may raise.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Warner, on the Abboud amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Moore has already made my speech. When this session started in January I had made up my mind that I would probably vote to put something on the ballot just because we needed to get rid of it. In fact, when I left home this morning I had in my mind I was going to vote to advance the constitutional amendment. As I was coming in, I heard on the radio where the Missouri Legislature had to hurry up and pass a bill for riverboat gambling because it was going so well in Iowa and if they didn't get the boat on the river real fast why the funds would all be sunk because Iowa had grabbed them all. As I listened to the discussion on the amendments this morning to advance it, thinking I was going to vote for it, actually it was the proponents who convinced me not to and they convinced me not to because we started to say there wasn't any problem, we really didn't need to worry too much about it. I heard ads read that for a few cents a day you had the chance of winning 30, 40, 50 million dollars which sounded like a how do you resist that. Somewhere along the line I heard some numbers on how much people might, on the average, gamble and then we come now to the Abboud amendment where we have to take care of those people who become addicted because of this state-sponsored, supported program which we now need to create a fund to protect them. I suspect that's right, we probably better. But I'm feeling more comfortable with the vote that I made this morning which was completely opposite from what I intended to when I walked into the Chamber because it seems that things...it seems to me that all the things that we've heard for the last 20 years, in fact, are true. And, in fact, when we talk about the funds we consistently acknowledge that this is unstable, that you cannot have ongoing programs funded by this because it's not going to work. We acknowledge that we've got to keep it really broad so