

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, this amendment was signed onto by I believe most of the members of the Omaha delegation or from the Douglas and Sarpy County areas. The...the.. it was also signed onto by two or three from outside of the Omaha area. Basically, what the amendment would do is give the authority...you probably read about this in the paper over the last few days, but would basically give authority to the City of Omaha to purchase and operate the Omaha Royals using keno proceeds. The Omaha Royals have been a fixture in Omaha for about 22 years now and are an important asset to eastern Nebraska. We feel it's important that it...that the Omaha Royals stay in Omaha. The mayoral administration in Omaha has been working to try to arrange a...arrange a deal that would allow the Royals to stay there. And some of the senators here wanted to do what we could to assist in allowing that bill to come to fruition. So, in a nut shell, what this does is allows that authority, it doesn't mandate it but it does grant that authority to use the proceeds for that purpose. There will be an amendment coming up in a few minutes that will expand that to the city or the county using the proceeds for that...for that purpose. Right now, this amendment limits it to a city of the metropolitan class so it would not affect any other city in the state. The amendment also will be limiting it to counties having a city of the metropolitan class. Again, so it is limited to the Douglas County area. With that, I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Mr. Clerk, amendments to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend Senator Lindsay's amendment. (The Wesely amendment appears on page 2210 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, this amendment as offered by Senator Lindsay and others applies just to metropolitan, well, just to metropolitan class and I would expand that to include a primary class city which is just Lincoln. There is no keno game here. I don't know if there ever will be but if there is, the opportunity, I think, if it exists for Omaha to utilize proceeds to purchase, or whatever, operate a baseball team, ought to apply equally to Lincoln which is at this time considering a minor league baseball franchise