

May 30, 1991

LB 795, 849

LR 24

issue.

SENATOR SMITH: All right, thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hall, would you like to close?

SENATOR HALL: Well, I...absolutely, Madam President, I would love to close. It's...unfortunately, it's neither ethanol nor trails, it's just gambling and I know it doesn't evoke the same kind of emotional response that some other things may but it is extremely important. And it does, I think, need to be addressed because we have to make policy decisions with regard to where this state is going to go in terms of gambling. We have bills like LB 849 that are coming up, the constitutional amendment, LR 24CA, and those are questions that we have to ask. But we still have not addressed the issue and I think we're really running in opposite directions when we, on one hand in this proposal, protect what I would call the abdication of the local option lottery on the part of the state, all that revenue that's being generated, but at the same hand, the same time and the same date come in 45 minutes later and espouse the virtues of a statewide lottery. It just kind of flies in the face of itself. The local option lotteries are never going to go away. Once you gave them those, to the local municipalities, you will never get those back. You will never get those back. They will continue to run those keno games in competition against your state lottery, whatever form it may take, and they will become...they will continue to raise the revenue that they have raised. You will see your state ticket lottery, the portion that is separate from the multistate lottery, virtually wither and die on the vine. It will raise no revenue. Within 18 months you will come in and strike that provision, if it's adopted by the people, from the statutes of Nebraska. That is what's going to happen because people aren't going to play it. They aren't going to play it, it's not going to generate any revenue. They will leave it alone. They will do two things. They will play Lotto America and they will play your local option lotteries, they will play keno. And you will see the locals come in here next year and they will find a sponsor for a bill that will not put in place three locations and 60 machines, Senator Smith and Senator Will, they will have a bill in place that allows them to place video keno in any number of licensed retail liquor establishments and that's exactly what they will do. Guarantee you. What we need to do in this amendment is beat them to the punch. We need to control it up front because we didn't do it