

May 31, 1991

LB 795, 849
LR 24

funds, which I'm not wild about but, the lottery that is, is the lottery funds should not go towards ongoing expenditures. Given the trend of our horse racing industry, when the lottery money goes away there may be some additional pressure to offset that with additional General Funds. I just...I guess my consistent on 849, I said if we're going to have a lottery in the State of Nebraska they should go for one-time expenditures a... one year at a time, and I think Senator Johnson's amendment would funnel that money to a worthy cause. I just think you're better off being straightforward with it and then have whatever lottery proceeds the state garners go into a fund or a pool of funds to distribute on a one-time basis and this amendment would deviate from that. For that reason, I oppose it.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I've had several people ask me, didn't we adopt this amendment previously. As I noted in my opening, we did adopt the 2 percent amendment to LB 795, which was the keno operation in the state or the control, county control, of keno, keno lotteries. We're talking about the enacting legislation of the recently advanced constitutional amendment on lottery. I can't say ticket lottery. I can't say video lottery. I'm not sure what I can say because we haven't decided as a body what kind of lottery that we're going to establish if the constitutional amendment, LR 24CA, is passed by the voters, but the proceeds, 2 percent of the proceeds, that will be generated from whatever lottery this body decides to establish if a lottery is approved by the voters, 2 percent of that proceed would go into the Thoroughbred Racing Assistance Fund to supplement purses. It's what you might call a double-dip. We're getting 2 percent from keno. What I'm asking is to also assist the purses by taking 2 percent from whatever lottery might be established if our voters in Nebraska approve a statewide lottery. If you recall, the keno, the keno amendment that was adopted, the 2 percent, only dealt with proceeds, 2 percent of the proceeds or gross of the keno in the counties in which a thoroughbred horse track is located. This applies to the statewide lottery structure, whatever it might be we might set up at some...a future date if it's approved. Senator Smith just asked me whether this horse racing fund would also address quarter horse racing. The answer is no. We're only talking about thoroughbred horse racing here. That's just the way the amendment is drafted. Senator Smith, it was not my intention to unfairly treat quarter horse racing but it