

there was extensive discussion on the constitutional amendment when it was attempting to...or the discussion to make it clear that video lottery games were not excluded by the constitutional amendment, were by the implementing legislation, LB 849. And the thought, when I filed this, was that probably we would be more factual with the citizens if the implementing legislation, in fact, did reflect what the constitutional amendment probably permits, and it would just seem to be consistent. I think if there is one person who argues against adopting it, that gives assurance that a video lottery is not proposed to come right back, why I'll probably withdraw it. But I'd like a reaffirmation for the voters that that is the intent, that implementation is not to include a video lottery. I assume it may be the case some day, but I'd like some floor discussion indicating it's not intended immediately, then, obviously, the language prohibiting it can stay in 849.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. The speaking order is now Senator Chambers, Smith, Will, and Hall. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I've got to kind of meditate on Senator Warner's amendment. But on this thing of the state getting in gambling, whether there is a video lottery as a part of it or not, is distressing to me. If I were a minister, I'd probably raise my finger and pound this book and say that you're going to cook in the fires of hell for involving the state in this devilish activity, but I'm not a minister, I won't say that. But I will say this, it is, in my mind, immoral, if there's such a thing as public morality, for the state to involve itself in a gambling operation. First of all, gambling in and of itself is not a wholesome activity. I don't think it's even neutral where you can say it depends on how much you gamble. It's known that there are some people who become addicted to it. The state knows that. Representatives of the state, through various of its agency heads, knows that. So to have the state involved in a gambling operation, I think, is reprehensible, immoral, deplorable, inexcusable. If money is to be raised by the state, it should use the legitimate means of doing that, which is by way of taxation. It's one thing to say that the state is going to tolerate gambling, tax it and regulate it, because it does the same thing with liquor, but it does not distill liquor, as far as I know. If it did, Senator Hall, and this building has a basement, we could say the sun shines on the roof, but the moonshine's in the cellar. Right.