

SENATOR CHAMBERS: They were given a favor. I will sit down, and when my turn comes up, I will...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the motion to return. As Senator Smith explained, we have, basically, the supporters of lottery have been very accommodating to the depositors in allowing the amendment to get on that we have. What we have now before is a constitutional amendment that would pose two questions, one being, do we have a state lottery; the second being, if we do have a lottery, are those proceeds to be available to depositors of failed institutions. I think that we have...essentially the lottery supporters have bent over backwards to accommodate the depositors. I have been supportive of efforts to reimburse the depositors. I think we have been more than fair. I think we have legitimate issues to put on the ballot right now. I don't think that the question of a lottery should rise or fall on the question of reimbursing depositors, which would happen if we merged the two issues, make one dependent upon the other. I think separating the issues, putting both on the ballot at the same time, is more than fair to the depositors and I would urge your opposition to the motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President and members. I, also, rise in opposition to this motion to bring it back. I think the depositors know that the voters will not approve if it is on the ballot separately, and they think this is one way to get it approved. I think maybe we had better look at what is happening here as far as the lottery. If we are going to put this in the lottery, that you are going to pay Commonwealth, you are not going to have any lottery because the people of Nebraska will not support a lottery if you have to give the funds back to Commonwealth. There is a very strong opposition out in rural Nebraska that this should not happen. As I said the other day, this is something that can't happen. There is no support for it outside of Lincoln. So you need to look at if you really want the lottery, you don't want this amendment on the lottery bill because it needs to be kept separately. And that it is kept separately now, which I opposed the other day, but this would really kill lottery in Nebraska. Thank you.