

reasons the state was shortchanged last year was because the 2 percent that went to the horsemen. Now if you decide as a policy, do not want to give that 2 percent of the horsemen, now is your second chance and this probably kind of is really your last chance to increase the state coffers by about a million dollars. It's one of those things, we're going to talk budget tomorrow, we're going to talk it again, it's one of those things we never like to raise revenue, but this is an opportunity to do it. If you're going to take the money away from the horsemen because it may be illegal, now is your opportunity instead of giving another million dollars to the cities, and we give them a variety of things, the state needs the money now. The state needs it. We have a tremendous amount of problems in our budget. We have some revenue problems. This would be a million dollars, \$1.1 million that would come to the State General Fund and who are you taking it away from? That money is sitting in escrow now. The question is, do you want to give the windfall to the cities? There's a good policy reason of why you want to do that but before you do that, I think you ought to start thinking about the situation the State of Nebraska is in. I think given our situation now is probably the last chance you ever have to increase the state's keep for that keno revenue. It's worth about \$1.1 million. Last year we got 23 votes. Many of those votes were concerned about if you raised it, that was an overall ratcheting of 2 percent, you're taking...this is your last chance since now the money is going back out of the horsemen fund into the cities, now is the last chance to keep that from happening and allow the state to get it, I would argue the state is as entitled to it as the city is. The cities still get the lions share of the proceeds there. I have a problem with that, but instead of giving the cities a windfall, in this case it's primarily the Douglas, the communities that run keno in Douglas County, a windfall of \$900,000. Let's let the state get in some of that. It's a million dollars. There's a lot of problems we have in our state. I think we need to, in absence of Revenue Committee Chairman Hall, I'm trying to raise some revenue to help address our state budget problems and with that I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Ashford, do you wish to address the Moore amendment?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yes, I do, thank you, Madam President. And I agree with Senator Moore on the first part of his argument and maybe I agree with him on some of the other part, I don't know,