

look at the percentage on not just keno, but lotteries and everything else. I think Senator Moore with his amendment is a little premature at this time. I would rather that we would come in next year and take a look at all of the fees rather than just on the keno at this time, so I would oppose the Moore amendment at this time because he is taking some money from an industry that needs the funds and also the dollars, the lawsuit has been filed and let's let the courts decide whether or not that law that we passed last year was actually legal or not. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper, we will move to Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members, Senator Moore's amendment to Senator Abboud's amendment puts me at least in a difficult position because on the one hand I am one of the guilty parties who helped orchestrate the 2 percent keno gross to the track, not to the tracks, but for the fund to the horsemen for purses. The concept behind that amendment last year was to enhance those purses to a level which would bring bigger name horses into the state, bigger name trainers, breeders, bring them into the state to compete in Nebraska races, thus hopefully enhancing the public's interest in our horse racing in Nebraska. Obviously we've not had a chance to test that theory out yet since the money is in escrow and it's not yet had a chance to be used to enhance those purses at the track. What I see happening here, what I've heard happening here is that on the one hand last year the horsemen were able to come in and steal 2 percent of the gross for purses. Senator Abboud now offers an amendment to steal the money back for the cities. Senator Moore now decides he wants to steal the money for the state and I guess we've been put in a situation, as members of this Legislature, to determine where the best use of these dollars, this principally \$1 million per year is going to go. I think overall it will do the most good in the area of the horse racing purses. I think it will enhance those purses to a level which will keep the racing competitive in Nebraska. It will hopefully draw new attention to our facilities in Nebraska and bring better and bigger name attractions, horses to the state. That's the concept a year ago. I think it's still relevant. The problem I have is I'm more willing to give the money to the state than I am the city, but more than anything