

else I'd just as soon have the bill stay as it is with the 2 percent going to the purse fund until such time as the court rules that it is unconstitutional or we cannot do it in that fashion. Then we can come back and refashion where we want that million dollars to go, but at this particular point I'm going to oppose both Senator Moore's amendment and Senator Abboud's amendment because they're both basically stealing it for themselves, the one hand for the city, the other hand for the state when, in fact, I think we made the right choice last year in recognizing that as keno has grown in this state, it has had a direct negative impact upon horse racing in Nebraska and their purses and the interest level and, in fact, this in a way would help offset that and balance the scale a bit to help us keep racing viable and, in fact, not ask the state to subsidize tracks any further. I've heard that a lot. You must remember this money is not going to the tracks, it's going to the purses that will go to the horsemen in this state who run their horses in here and hopefully continue to draw quality mounts to Nebraska. So with that I'm going to oppose both Senator Moore's amendment and Senator Abboud's amendment.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Johnson. We'll move to Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I, too rise in opposition to both the Moore amendment and the Abboud amendment. Senator Johnson stated very well my very reasons for opposing both of these amendments. Obviously I prefer the Moore amendment. I think that the keno market is one that we have essentially conceded to cities. We're the only state in the nation that allows local option keno. It has become fairly prevalent in the State of Nebraska and while we do tax it, we tax it at a very modest level. I think that looking at increasing the state's cut is certainly something that I'm interested in. However, I certainly don't want to see that increase in the state's cut come from the amount that we voted wisely last year, in my opinion, to allow the horsemen to have access to. Clearly, there was a point in Nebraska's history where horse racing was the king of the hill as far as gaming went with no one else even close. Gradually over the last 10 or 15 years we've allowed a proliferation of not only keno, but also bingo, pickle cards. Next year we will have a state lottery. There is no doubt in my mind that this has taken its toll on the amount of revenue that is able to be generated by horse racing on the horse racing industry in general and