

Quite frankly, my concern is not that and I don't think the vote up or down on this override or on the bill initially should be on whether or not there are sufficient safeguards. In my view, the vote...or my vote no is for two reasons. One, the constitutional problem is a real problem. The way that the case law in Nebraska has interpreted our parimutuel wagering sections of our Constitution, at least my reading of it, clearly would be that any wagering would have to take place within the enclosure of a racetrack. Senator, that is a debatable point I grant you, but it is a point at least that I read clearly to be there that we cannot, we cannot wager outside of the enclosure constitutionally. The second reason, though, I think is a more compelling one for me is that maybe unfortunately this bill for Ak-Sar-Ben has come up at a time when Ak-Sar-Ben is caught somewhat in the middle. We have expanded gambling in this state way too far beyond where it should be. This wagering in this bill is big time gambling. This is not pickles, this is not bingo, this is big time gambling on horse races across the country, not at a racetrack but in licensed facilities that could be located I guess throughout the State of Nebraska. It is a significant expansion of gambling. I think Senator Will very truthfully suggested one of the reasons why this bill is important and that is that the horse racing handle has gone down. And that brings up exactly the salient point and that is that gambling has reached the point of saturation. That if we expand gambling any more, and I believe in my mind we've expanded it way too far, certainly in our city where we have uncontrolled keno gambling, it's getting to be pathetic and almost obscene the kind of gambling that's going on in our community. And it's in a way unfortunate that Senator Hall's and Senator Will's bill happens to be up here at this time in a way. But still I think as a state we need to send a message to our citizens that we are not going to allow the expansion of gambling any further. And in fact I think next year we're going to have to take a look at reforming what we already have. The gambling dollar is stretched to the point where it really is no longer able to do what it was intended to do in the first place. The competition for the gambling dollar is considerable. I know at UNO the pickle card revenues that they relied upon for their athletic program, that revenue has not gone up in the last four or five years. Simply put, we're at a saturation point, and I think the public has had it with the revelations in Omaha on the...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.