

There are taxes, dollars that are being spent by Nebraskans and paid into other states' coffers and as tight as our budgets are, as difficult as it is for us to address new revenue sources, this is one that shows up as a voluntary tax, one that you pay as much or as little as you choose to, you participate or you don't. And at the same time it recognizes the need for us to protect our businesses, as small as they might be, but I think very valuable in terms of our overall economy. With that it might be a gambling issue, it might be a tax issue, but it can also be truly characterized as an economic issue for the folks in this state, those small businessmen and women. I would urge you to oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill, but I'd be ready to respond to any questions and look forward to the debate on the overriding principle of whether we should expand gambling in Nebraska or not. Thank you, Madam President.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Withem.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I rise to indicate that I will not be voting for the Hall amendment, but I do want to speak just a little bit on the process of what Senator Hall is doing and also on the merits of LB 851. First of all, I think, and some people may still not be clear what Senator Hall is doing. What Senator Hall is doing is he's invoking a measure in the rule that allows us to get to a vote on indefinite postponement early on in stage of the bill. Otherwise, as he indicated, the IPP motion would not come up until we've had lengthy debate on committee amendments, amendments to committee amendments, perhaps even it's conceivable we could have a vote for cloture on this prior to even getting to an IPP motion. And I think what he is doing is offering the body an opportunity for an up or down vote, early on, on the issue of expansion of gambling. I would urge those of you, and I know there are quite a number of you in the body, I have no idea how many, but there are quite a number of you who cannot envision yourself under any circumstances supporting LB 851. You are going to oppose expansion of gambling whether it's Senator Hall's version of the bill, whether it's Senator Schellpeper's version of the bill, whether it's some other version of the bill, you just don't want to see more gambling in the state. I think the Governor has put himself in that position, I believe the ministers who were down the other day are in that position. If you're in that position I really urge you to take Senator Hall's motion seriously and vote in favor of it. That would, and if there are 25 of you, if there are 25 of