

you look at the amount of money that has been spent just in the five weeks that that operation has been on line over in Council Bluffs and you realize that by their own admission in Iowa, roughly 75 to 80 percent of the money that is being spent is spent by Nebraskans in those operations. That ought to tell you something. It ought to tell you two things, one, that people want expanded gambling in this state and, two, we're losing a lot of revenue and that is a key, key issue for me in addition to the impact that it's having on businesses here at home. I would hope you would oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone. Again, I'd respond to any questions. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President, members, I had to slip out and visit with 50 fourth graders and so I hope I don't repeat anything that has been previously said. I, for one, take the suggestion of the Speaker very seriously and that's his suggestion that we look at this proposal put forth by Senator Hall in the manner in which it was delivered to us and really try to flush out just exactly how we're going to proceed from here. In addition I'd like to commend Senator Hall for providing the body this opportunity of being able to determine if individually and collectively as a body we're going to apply some measure of discipline upon ourselves as we begin to wind down this particular session. I intend to support the motion to indefinitely postpone and it's not a position that I think, unlike any other member, that I have come about on the spur of the moment. This issue, as Senator Hall has indicated, has been before citizens of the state for a number of years. Anybody that has run for political office at the local level and/or the state level has had to deal with this particular issue and make their feelings of course known to their constituents and I, for a long period of time, have opposed further extension of gambling within our state. So I want to make sure first of all that people don't think that I came about this particular position haphazardly. I've given it a great deal of thought and consideration, visiting with many, many individuals and people, have studied the issue. And one of the things that I have concurred, and I think study after study has indicated is it's not really an issue of whether low income people know how to spend their resources any better or less than middle income or high income people, but the study reflects it impacts them differently and that's what troubles me a great deal. I think