

take this next step I think it's a rather large one where we're going to end up somewhere where I think the people are going to start to...start not to be as supportive of our gambling efforts as they have been in the past. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, my position in opposition to gambling has been from the day I came into the Legislature, in fact it has caused me much pain and agony since that point and I can remember that first session, some consequences I had to pay for my opposition to gambling, but I have stuck fast to that position for a number of reasons. First off, personal viewpoint, but second off, you must understand the district I represent. It was once called the holy suburbs of Lincoln. Bethany and Uni Place was a place that not only gambling, but liquor wasn't available and of course when they wanted to have some fun they went up to Havelock where Senator Landis' district and the people in Havelock went up to south Omaha where Senator Hall's district is if they wanted some fun and I don't know where the people in south Omaha go to, maybe Council Bluffs. But in any event, my part of town, sometimes I've thought of referring to my district as the heavenly district because we tend to focus on that so much on various aspects of our district. But nevertheless, when Senator Hall talked about this not being a moral issue, there are people in my district who do definitely see it in that fashion, that it is a moral issue and one of great importance to them. That's not an issue I think we can debate and resolve on the floor of the Legislature. I see this in terms of economics as much as anything. I think Senator Hall is alluding to that as well. And what I see is that this is a disproportionate tax on the poor when you talk about lottery funds being raised to do different public services. It is the poor that typically tend to gamble more than the rich or those with higher income and although it is by choice, so it is a voluntary tax, nevertheless the consequences of it clearly tend to fall on those who are poorest amongst us. Perhaps it could be argued that it gives those among us who are so poor, hope, that the chance of winning a lottery gives them the will to go on and the chance to perhaps get out of their...the lives in which they have such low incomes. But of course so few win and so many have to lose in order for those few to win and so ultimately the odds are definitely against those who gamble, those who see that as the ticket to a better life. So I see this as an economic issue.