

And as somebody concerned about the poor, I don't support the expansion of gambling and feel that it has a number of negative consequences, crime in addition to economics are other issues we can talk about. The other thing that I've seen in my 17 years in the Legislature is how every step forward leads to yet another step and eventually the escalation of gambling and the forms of gambling that we allow. It's because we can never satisfy this, the boredom or the complacency that develops with whatever level of gambling we have. We started, and I do have for you a handout on the legislative history of gambling, but we...as you can look at that and see, we started with the horse racing industry, in 1934, and from that we moved into bingo which occurred, I'm not sure when that was, in the 1950s, and then we moved, with the lottery amendment that was adopted in the 1960s, into pickle cards and keno, and then the last step we've taken recently on this issue was the state lottery which we adopted a couple of years ago. Now we still have the horse racing industry but obviously they're hurting so now they're looking at other types of revenue to supplement the fact that that's passe, that it's not the current, most exciting form of gambling. And bingo, pickle cards, keno, state lottery and where does that lead us to, well slot machines, the proposal that the video lottery type machines that Senator Hall would like to propose. And I'm telling you that after you take that step you're going to be looking at casinos, you're going to be talking about river boats. It's ultimately that direction that you take once you start down the road, and it is the force of competition from other states that is driving us as well as the desire for something new and exciting to do in some people's lives.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: So the concern that I have is that every step forward leads to us to another step after that at some point when the time comes. And so I'd rather just say no. I didn't want the state lottery, didn't support it, didn't support the pickle cards and the others and it seems to me that again I would oppose this. I'm glad Senator Hall is offering it in this fashion. We can talk about our philosophical concerns, the issues as we see them and hopefully this body will resolve right off the bat, do we want or do we not want to move forward on this issue. If you disagree with me, if you feel we should move forward, then obviously the time to do it right would need to be taken, but I would hope you would agree to support the kill