

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, whenever the term property tax comes up people are willing to jump on any cockamamie notion and say this is a way to reduce property tax. That is the phrase that people conjure by. First of all, if we as politicians are honest, we cannot realistically take away the tax base. Property taxes cannot be levied by the state, so local divisions of government should not, when people run for those offices, have people elected who say I'm going to reduce property taxes. That is impossible and they know it. This that is being argued in favor of the gambling shows how desperate are those people who want to raise the issue of property taxes but not deal with that issue in a forthright manner by acknowledging that there could be no substantial reduction in property taxes without a corresponding reduction in the services that are provided. It shows the desperation of those who are trying to support the gambling because they will offer anything. We're not dealing with Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, although we're dealing with preachers, priests, ministers and all these others who will do anything to get money. Now I'm not talking, Senator Lynch, about morality in the sense that religious people do, so I want to make that clear, but I find something unseemingly about men and women of the cloth, preaching in favor of gambling and using the results of gambling for what they call holy, godly activities. I thought that one of the main principles of Catholicism, I know it's a principle there and probably of other religions that the end does not justify the means. Gambling is going to be justified by saying it does so many wonderful things, but there is also a principle of double effect and I won't go into details on that and I will analogize from that. You're going to look only at all the money that is raked in from the poor and the rich, but weak. Michael Albert was not a poor man except when it came to self-control and the ability to discipline his ownself when it came to gambling. He said that is what led him to do things that violated federal laws in his business, so it's not just the people who are poor. There are many people who have more means than I will ever have who cannot resist the temptation laid before them by the old demon gambling and they will gamble away houses, they've gambled away cars, they've gambled away what I, Senator Brown, choose to call "yatchets". You all who ride them will call them yachts. They'll gamble away everything. There is nobody who can stand on this floor and trace the history of gambling throughout history and show any unmitigated good that gambling has done. You can show where