

something, such as the 2 percent tax on keno, and allocating that to thoroughbred racing. The arguments were thoroughly explained at the time that that amendment was adopted. The Legislature approved it. It, I think, has been established through legislative history, through the history of gambling in this state, that thoroughbred racing occupies a position in which it ought to be treated with a fair amount of respect because of the fact that it is agriculturally based. I think that...I was baffled by the Supreme Court decision. I don't know how they came to that conclusion. I was a cosponsor, if I recall correctly, of the amendment that put in the 2 percent tax on keno that went to thoroughbred racing. I continue to support that. I fail to understand the logic that the Supreme Court used in repealing that. I would do anything within my power to retain that, but given the fact that it has been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and there is no reason to have an unconstitutional statute on the books, I would continue to support the Schellpeper amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in support of the amendment. The provision that Senator Hartnett has in place that increases the expenses for bingo is really a...it is just an honesty amendment. I mean, the expenses on bingo exceed the 12 percent, in many cases, and it is a provision that is sorely needed in order to allow for bingo to, basically, pay its own way. The provisions are similar in the second portion that was the amendment that I withdrew that increases the pickle card expense from 6 to 8 percent. They are...pickle cards don't have the same expense requirements that you see in bingos or in kenos which the bingo merely...the increase would have it mirror the 14 percent that is allowed presently under keno. Senator Abboud's amendment is a gesture to the Supreme Court, which former Chief Justice Hastings used to say, they are not always right but they are always last. And then the Robak amendment deals with the issue of a licensed racetrack conducting keno lottery if it abuts the county, city, or village, which has approved the keno. On that section, if I could just ask Senator Schellpeper, I see that he is talking with Senator Wesely, but I just have a question, Senator Schellpeper, and it's...

SENATOR SCHELLPFPER: Yes.