

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I can't find the committee amendments, just a minute. Sorry about that. Mr. Speaker and members, we start debate this morning on an issue that a lot of people would just as soon we didn't have to do. But it's an issue that is facing the state of Nebraska and it's an issue that this body has to cross that bridge and move on. Whatever happens I think we owe it to the people of this state to let them vote on an issue that is very important to a lot of people, to a lot of organization and to several businesses. Whether or not this issue passes, or whether or not we don't move on, I think that will be decided in the next day or so. The committee amendments that came out of the committee would have the Legislature authorize and regulate games of chance, the proceeds of which are used only for charitable or community betterment purposes, for civic betterment, for tax relief, for job creation, and economic development, or for the promotion of agriculture. Such games of chance shall include but not be limited to casino gaming activities, player activated electronic video or mechanical gaming devices, dice, card games of chance, and table games of chance. Nothing can happen in the state without a vote of the people. No matter what we decide to do here, the Attorney General has stated that if Nebraska wants to expand in any type of future gaming, electronic, video, which is where everything is headed, that we have to have a vote of the people. And this CA and these amendments are exactly what we do. We attempt to move in the direction to let the people decide if we should expand or if we should not expand. As we move in the next day or two we will find out whether or not this body is willing to let the voters decide. I think that's the way this country was formed, it's the way the constitution was accepted. Back in 1934 the voters of this state said they wanted to expand into parimutuel horse racing, and we expanded with a vote of the people. In 1992 they decided, the voters of this state decided they wanted to expand into a state lottery, but it was only with a vote of the people. And that's what we're attempting to do this morning. The committee amendments basically just spell out what will happen with the CA if it should pass. Now we have several amendments, I shouldn't say several, but two of them that we'd like to propose in exchange for the committee amendments. And I think, Mr. Clerk, that's 2735 we'd like to substitute that for the committee amendments, if we might.

CLERK: Well, Senator, I have AM2735, it's drafted as an