

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 10, 2000 LB 659

to they must be in a restaurant or a facility dispensing liquor; but certainly I go to many of those places with my kids and you look at the machines that are usually at the entrance and the various arcade type machines, video machines, and then you're going to have this type of machine there also where they're going to drop their coins in, coins that they can't afford and then also that will lead...the quicker you can get...it's no different than smoking or any other addiction, alcohol. The sooner you can get young people involved, the greater risk of them becoming addicted. I felt it was with much chagrin that I saw the treatment for compulsive gamblers was included in the bill because it's interesting that in order...and I would like to get those people dollars because they're running so short. But to do the...link the two together I just think is absolutely wrong. It's no different than giving someone tobacco and then providing treatment for them later on. Matter of fact, our government did that back in World War II in supplying tobacco in C rations. The first time I flew an airplane I got a five-pack of cigarettes as part of my ticket price. That certainly led to a lot of addiction later on by individuals smoking. This is the same type of issue. The quicker you can get kids on...into gambling, the quicker that they'll become addicted, the quicker they'll become problems for us. I'm for charities, but I'm not at the risk of providing activity for our young people that will later on become problems. Throughout this whole bill, there's no limit to the number of machines that can be out there, and these are machines. And whether they have an arm on the side or a button in the front or a flashing light on top or on side or in front, it's going to look like a video slot machine. That's the main purpose of these, and I just think that's a wrong activity that we do not want to expand into. Certainly we've had problems with Council Bluffs...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...in Iowa, in South Dakota and the other states with their gambling and, yes, that's one of the reasons we're short of treatment dollars. But the closer you can bring it to your home the more dollars we're going to need. And I would just urge the body at this time, at this hour, at this late date not to this year advance a gambling bill any further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.