

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment that is offered by my good friend Senator Hoagland. I want to explain briefly why I might do that because there are some aspects of the amendment that I think are positive. But I think on the whole we have to recognize that what we do here is simply say, we simply say, look, we have made a mistake in the past by authorizing the local option lotteries of local governments so we are going to freeze it. The second thing we say is is that, ya, ya, we ought to tax them. Well, that is what the whole issue here is anyways is raising revenues. The second thing that we say here is we are not going to do a statewide lottery and that is the thing that I have the biggest problem with. Now let me explain why. It is my opinion that the way that LB 336 is presently written is the preferable way this bill ought to be written. It says we are going to have a statewide lottery and we are going to do away with the local lotteries and, frankly, for those cities who are concerned that they are going to lose something, they ought to recognize that once you have a statewide lottery the competition is going to be so great for your local lotteries that they are going to wash away or die anyways. So those people who want to have both frankly are making a mistake because both cannot exist. For those people who think that this problem isn't going to get worse and more people putting pressure on, et cetera, et cetera, I want to tell you that I personally believe that the smartest thing we can do in terms of regulating and limiting the whole question of lottery gambling, which is like horse racing gambling but not exactly the same thing because we haven't authorized that yet, we have authorized the horse racing, we have only authorized it in local option situation, the one thing we can say here is that we are going to have one lottery in Nebraska that is going to be a state lottery that is going to be run with a commission, with some overview, with some scrutiny, with some opportunity to have some controls over its operation and what it does. Now frankly for those people who do not like lotteries at all, that I would think would be the preferable solution. At least you deauthorize the many that exist today. You take away the authorization for new ones and you have one easy to regulate lottery. If that is as I believe it is the preferable option in this whole question, then frankly we should oppose the Hoagland amendment and we should oppose the DeCamp amendment which is coming up which says we are going to let everybody do a lottery because frankly that doesn't help either. There is one part of this amendment that I like, Senator Hoagland, and I hope you can tear it out and offer it separate if you would and that is the part that deals with...I forgot what it was, Senator Hoagland,