

avalanche of paper this morning. So I'm going to read one article. Taking a trip last fall, going west, we would buy papers and kind of see what was going on in other states. So this particular one was in the Peninsula Gateway which is the legal newspaper of the City of Gig Harbor, dated 10-10-85. Lottery, Bad Bet. We wonder if the Washington State Lottery has run its course as a money maker for the state. When the state began the lottery both the winners of the weekly drawings and state officials could celebrate the amount of money received. Now it appears the state lottery program is having problems keeping out of the red. Meanwhile both Oregon and California have gone to the lottery to produce cash for their state budgets. This was bound to have impacted Washington's lottery. Now Oregon is reporting losses in its lottery program, just like Washington. Maybe the best bet would be to drop the lottery. Certainly state taxpayers in Washington should not be forced to support the lottery program with state funds at the expense of other needed state supported programs in education or social services. I believe that, if this has happened in other states, it very probably could happen in Nebraska. With that, I would support the kill motion. Senator Hefner.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'll be brief, but I just have a few words here. If we go back in history, lotteries have been in existence for a long time, in fact as far back as the Revolutionary War and they use the lotteries to raise money and reduce taxes. But the trouble of it is they didn't raise very much money. It petered out. So they had to go back to raising money the conventional way, in sales and income tax and property taxes. We found out that like Iowa, Oregon, State of Washington and other states are having problems now. Their projections are way off. And so I say to you this morning it is not a consistent way to raise money. If a program is important, a government should raise money the proper way, should raise...use the property tax, sales tax and income tax to fund these programs if we see that they are important. Many times we see people play the game that can least afford to play them. They should be using these monies to provide food for their families, to provide clothing and other necessities. I do not think that the lottery game, and gambling such as this is conducive to the