

May 2, 1979

LB 152

I would like to ask Senator Hoagland a question if he would yield please. Senator Hoagland, you know I am a little curious when I recognize the change in the code which did result in the stiffening of the penalty for gambling. It came to my attention that there would no doubt be some raids before long and there would be some individuals picked up. It never occurred to me that those raids would occur in Senator DeCamp's home community but I did tell him that they would not occur in the City of Omaha. I am curious as to, in your own experience, do you think that there does exist organized gambling in the City of Omaha?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I really can't answer that, Senator Schmit. In my experience I have not seen any serious organized gambling, no, aside from what we see out at Aksarben.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well I would have to say this, Senator Hoagland, you know I haven't seen any in Bellwood, Nebraska, either but I talked to an individual who tells me that of any given Saturday during the football season there is a tremendous amount of activity, at least in the metropolitan area, and you know I don't happen to gamble on football but I will tell you what. If you happen to want to do some gambling I can tell you how to get hold of a broker that will tell you how to really gamble and to gamble in five and six figures and you can do it legally. You can sell corn on the Board of Trade short and if you happen to be watching, today December corn went from, opened at seventy-six, went up to eighty two and dropped back to seventy-seven and a quarter. Now if you want a fast track that is the way to go and I would suggest that that might not be in the best interest of all of us. In fact, I sometimes wonder if it is any more immoral for a guy to take a bet on a football game or for me to bet with you on the outcome of a basketball game than it is for someone to sell fifty thousand bushels of corn that he doesn't have or buy fifty thousand bushels on a piece of paper but that is the way it goes. I guess the thing that bothers me more than anything about the enforcement of the law is what Senator Chambers has referred to many times and so accurately, it is what we call selective enforcement and I think that is what we see under this instance. There is no doubt in my mind and I am as concerned about gambling, illegal gambling, as anyone but there is no doubt in my mind that we are going to use the hunt and peck system of enforcement of this law and it is going to be some person such as we saw recently in