

the voters. Senator Chambers, if you would check the records, parimutuel betting was approved by the voters in 1934; bingo in 1968. Our voters, our citizens of Nebraska spoke quite clearly on what gambling issues they wanted and what issues they didn't want. In the late 1930's, they defeated a slot machine amendment. However, a little later, four years later, in 1934 they approved parimutuel wagering. Later in the 1960's, they approved bingo and they approved raffles. So Nebraskans, Nebraskans have expressed their opinion on gambling issues. Governor Kerrey has said that if this bill passes that he would veto this bill and I certainly approve of that. Also I think our Attorney General was quite clear in the message that he wrote several weeks ago and he says that this bill would be unconstitutional. Therefore, I would ask you this morning to support the kill motion of this bill.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand to rise in the sense of the members of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee that advanced this bill and I stand to clarify the editorial the Omaha World Herald published on February 11th with the headline "Backers' Excuses Weak For Vote On Bookie Bill". They quoted Senator Pat Morehead as saying, "It will now get a full discussion of all 49 senators." Is that a weak reason to put a bill out on the floor so that it gets a full discussion? And the World Herald isn't the only one that is allowed to decide what laws we will introduce and what laws we will pass and not pass. Senator D. Paul Hartnett is quoted as saying, "Chambers was successful in 'appealing to a Legislature's sense of morality.'" Morality, but the World Herald says that is a weak excuse to vote a bill out on the floor of the committee and they go on and say about little ole me. Senator Marge Higgins of Omaha, she considers it "hypocritical to legalize some forms of gambling while refusing to legalize, regulate and tax all forms." I will correct the editorial. I said "other forms". Then they went on to say "A misguided crusade against 'hypocrisy' isn't a good reason to vote for a bill, either." Senators, I ask you, when is a crusade against hypocrisy bad? Maybe they made that statement because they themselves have been so guilty of hypocrisy. As Senator Chambers pointed out, here is the spread sheet that the World Herald prints for the benefit of those who want to bet illegally. Is that hypocrisy or not? No wonder they don't