

availability of slot machines in Nebraska is good for Nebraska. And I recognize that there are other forms of gambling in this state. We talk about those a lot on this floor, but two wrongs do not make a right. Furthermore, slot machines in the restaurants, the grocery stores, the drug stores, the bars across the face of Nebraska would constitute a quantum leap in the availability of gambling statewide, a leap beyond lotteries as we know them today, a leap beyond pickle cards, a leap beyond horse racing, a quantum leap in the availability of gambling if we put slot machines in the Hinky Dinkys, and the Skaggs, and all the various kinds of stores we have across the state. Now what are the problems with that? There are a number of problems with that. There is no truly effective way of keeping minors away from the machines. There is no truly effective way of preventing gambleholics from getting hooked on the machines as we saw happen last year. There is no real justification for involving government in promoting gambling when the only purpose is to raise revenue, and surely in our free society and our free democracy there are innumerable values we hold higher than money because, colleagues, when it comes right down to it, the only justification you are going to hear for this bill boils down to one word, "money". Money, money, money. Money for the manufacturers of the machines, money for the promoters of the machines, money for the owners of the establishments where they are installed, enough money to go around but the promoters don't address the question of where the money comes from. The money frequently comes from the poor, it comes from Social Security checks and unemployment compensation checks and aid to dependent children checks. It comes from the pockets of people that can't resist gambling. It comes from the pockets of people who even though they know better can't resist the urge to play the machines. Now let me leave you with this thought.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: What benefit is there to opening the door to allowing slot machines by the hundreds to proliferate throughout this state, other than the personal aggrandizement of the few individuals that will profit? What is the overall social benefit to society as a whole to allow this mania to spread throughout our land? Now if Iowa wants to take the plunge, so be it. It will learn its lesson soon enough as we have. And if Illinois wants to