

wonder if it is possible that we, like the monkey, are being promised that video slots are going to take care of us, that perhaps they are going to reduce our property taxes, or that millions of dollars generated from these machines are in fact going to be spent for all these wonderful, wonderful community betterment projects. Is it possible through some twisted line of reasoning that we have come to believe that a proliferation of these types of machines won't have an adverse effect on the crime rate, or that the greed generated from the millions of dollars from these slot machines won't stop the skimming, or perhaps that an entire new generation now being weaned on the large video screens won't want to play the video slots when they become of age or before, or that these machines won't lead to more compulsive gambling, or that perhaps they are not a form of regressive taxation? I am afraid that if this bill is not killed, if the bill, in fact, does pass, we are all going to have the monkey on our back. From the junior executive who chases the secretary around the office to the senior executive who attempts to subvert the tax collector, I think so often that we are all trying to get something for nothing. I am afraid that this bill, LB 144, is just another example of trying to get something for nothing and simply thinking that somebody else is going to be paying the bill. Legalized gambling, in the form of these types of machines, as has been said previously, is not good public policy whether it be state control, local control, whatever the case may be. This is a bill which should not pass. It is a bill that should be killed. The Legislature should not support it...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BARRETT: ...because as far as I am concerned, it is wrong. I have opposed this type of legislation ever since I have been here and I will continue to oppose this type of concept. This Legislature should not be afraid to stand for something today, the kill motion, because if we don't, I am afraid we might be likely to fall for just about anything. And if we fall for legalizing video slots in this state, we are going to live to rue the day. I guarantee it. And should that be the case, heaven forbid, we are going to have a monkey on our backs. I would also urge the body to vote to indefinitely postpone the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.