

decided that they could have a lottery, then that local subdivision could put into place, if it was the desire of the city council, could put into place a video lottery system with the machines not to go in the grocery stores, with the machines not to go in the filling stations, not to go into coin laundries, but to go into taverns. The go into bars where the adults go and they play the pinball machines, they play the juke boxes, and they play the shuffleboard, and they drink liquor, and they smoke cigarettes, and the chew Sen-Sen, and the like. The go in those places right now because they enjoy entertainment. This bill is a local option bill and the number of the locals that are given the option are only those locals that once had the option and voted, and voted to put in lottery. They are given the opportunity to vote again as to whether or not they can have the machines, and if they can have the machines, they go into a very limited number of places, with the revenue from the machines then being divided among or between the city, the operator, the state, and the licensee. It is a fairly simple and, of course, there will be proceeds that will go to winners. Now, it is basically an entertainment issue. It truly is an entertainment issue. We can parade it as a gambling issue but, in fact, it is simply people in a local community being given the right to choose whether or not they would like to have this relatively simple form of entertainment in their taverns and that is the nature of the bill, not a statewide lottery, not a beast that is moving across the state, or as William Butler Yeats said, not a great beast slouching towards Bethlehem waiting to be born. It is simply an entertainment bill. Today there are millions of dollars spent in Nebraska on entertainment,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...whether it be bingo entertainment, horse racing entertainment, but people do like to gamble. I am not a gambler. I was not raised in a gambling family. I was raised in a middle-class Protestant family but there were people in Columbus where I was raised who were Catholic and they kind of gambled a little bit, and my parents might talk about that, but you know, we tolerated it. We accepted it because some people do different from the way I am and the way my parents were, and all we have done in this bill is simply said, look, treat this kind of entertainment basically like, basically like we treated alcohol years ago. We allowed folk in a community to vote whether they wanted