

element of crime because sometimes the papers make kind of the negative part so I'll quote this from our Mayor Joe Baldwin. "The press emphasize all the potential negative effects of the lottery operation and predicted a significant increase in crime and social problems as a result. However, 15 months of experience has shown just the opposite. There is no increase in crime, in fact, there is an actual decrease in crime within the city, within the City of Bellevue. Police Department statistics for 1984 were compared with a corresponding period of 1983 for the categories of crime that would be possibly gambling related such as robbery, burglary, thefts, including shoplifting, petty and grand larceny. The statistics indicate that during the operation of the lottery there were 744 such crimes in the city compared to the 747 for the same period a year earlier, an actual decrease of one half of one percent. These facts are even more incredible when one realizes that the city population increased from nearly 50 percent during that period. Due to annexation the city population grew from 21,000 to 31,000, therefore, we had actually seen a larger relatively decreasing crime during the period of video lottery operation. There has been no reported instances of gambling related poverty. Unemployment in the city decreased and real employment grew. Perhaps more importantly, the legal operation of video lottery has diverted funds which previously circulated in illegal underground section of the economy into the legal section." And one of the things that are in our testimony this year related to the video lottery when we were hearing it, one of the attorneys said that there were illegal video lottery machines in the state and so simply what we're trying to attempt to do with this bill is highly regulate the bill so that we are able to control illegal gambling within the state. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I was not going to speak on this issue. It's been a difficult issue for me since coming to the Legislature. I was appointed a little over two years ago, almost immediately was thrown in the midst of the discussion at that time on whether or not to have a statewide lottery. Last year, of course, we had the bill that dealt with the outlawing the video lotteries and now we have LB 144 this year to reinstitute the video lotteries. It's been a difficult