

additional gambling activities we should open the state to legalized sports betting. We know that sports betting occurs in Omaha, Lincoln and elsewhere in Nebraska today though it is not lawful activity and the question obviously arises is when an activity does occur that people consent to, that people enjoy, should or should not it remain illegal? My attitude is that some forms of activity we know exist, we work at curtailment. We do it through criminal laws. And those forms of activity we continue to work to curtail, though we'll never be able to stamp it out. I think drug usage is one example of that. I think that we have certainly not taken the limits off of...we have not decriminalized drug usage because we recognize that drug usage is harmful. So even though we reduce the sanctions, for example, on marijuana, quite dramatically, because we don't want to put all of our teenagers in jail or a lot of our young adults in jail, we none the less still continue a sanction. I think the same should be true for sports wagering. I think that simply because we allow bingo in our state, because we allow horse racing in our state, because we allow other forms of gambling activity in our state, and because we may allow, but we may not, we may allow the video lottery form of gambling, I don't think that those allowances by themselves should cause that door to be opened to sports betting. My personal feeling is that we should continue to keep that an area of activity that is criminalized in nature. So I would oppose Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, what Senator Johnson just gave is an irrefutable argument as to why you should have it. It is being done everywhere now. It has not corrupted any governments. It has not subverted any of the morals of society. Senator DeCamp and I had a bet on an event in the Legislature, which I paid off after he reminded that I hadn't. At the beginning of this session a large number of the senators went into a pool to determine who would come the closest to picking the number of bills introduced, and whoever came the closest won that pot. The governor's of this state have bet, and it's been carried in the media, on the outcome of bowl football games. So this type of betting is occurring. What Senator Johnson knows, maybe he's not on the committee that heard the bill but I think he is, there