

Nebraska Legislature and no personal interest that was more vividly portrayed or more adequately explained to the public than my interest in that particular situation. I'd just like to put a proposal before you. By the termination of the video lottery equipment, suppose that my good friend and colleague Senator Hefner then began to sell pickles in his establishment, thereby earning a small financial gain. Does that prohibit Senator Hefner from voting to terminate video lotteries? I think not. I don't think so, but it could be construed in that manner. I think it's of interest you see that we...I have introduced bills to reestablish a lower rate of usury. Obviously, I borrow a large amount of money. To enact a bill which would establish a 9 percent usury rate would result in an immediate financial gain to me. The broad general public, if it's, of course, benefitted also or, in the opinion of my banker friends, injured, but notwithstanding that, I think the personal gain is very evident. Yesterday we introduced a bill, Senator Vickers, Senator Rod Johnson, Senator...let's see, who else was there, Senator Bill Harris and myself to provide for the construction of as many as 40 alcohol plants in the State of Nebraska, the full purpose of that being for financial gain for agriculture. Obviously it is going to have an immediate, I am sure, an immediate impact. If we were to adopt that bill, I can guarantee you that the grain market would escalate by 20 or 30 cents a bushel the next day. We know what happens if we said there were going to be 200 million bushels of grain disappear from the marketplace. That's going to result in personal financial gain for Loran Schmit, Tom Vickers, Rod Johnson and every other farm legislator in this body. Is the individual gain to be separated from the financial gain? Am I to be required to take the 25 or \$30,000 that I earned as a result of that passage of that bill and contribute to some charity and then allow Senator Haberman who voted otherwise perhaps to benefit? It reaches a point of absurdity. I think we need to clarify it, but I think we have almost gotten ourselves in a situation here which is going to become ridiculous. As a part-time Legislature, most of us, unless we are financially independent, immensely wealthy, need to have other means of support. As I look back over the 17 years that I have been here, I wonder sometimes about some of the opportunities I might have engaged in that might have been beneficial to me financially, none of which ever took place. But I'd like to suggest perhaps...