

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. Senator Hoagland, being an attorney I would think that you would refer to only those matters that are in the bill. I don't believe slot machines are mentioned, video lotteries are. So as a point of order I would say let us refer to them as the bills are written, video lotteries. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, Senator Higgins can call them video lotteries if she wants, Madam President. I'm going to call them slot machines because that is what they are.

SENATOR HIGGINS: That is a lie. That is not in the bill

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, all right, well let me continue my presentation. Now what I'd like to do in the eight minutes or so that I've got left is to try and summarize the major arguments against slot machines. Now I think it is inappropriate, first of all, for government to be involved in lotteries. The lottery issue really, more directly than most issues we have here in the Legislature, raises the fundamental question of the proper role of government. Is it appropriate for government to attempt to raise money by encouraging its citizens to gamble? That is the basic, ethical and moral issue underlying lotteries. And I share reservations that Governor Kerrey has expressed in previous years about government getting involved in that function. Now President Reagan was quoted, two days ago, as saying, "Call me a prude if you want to, but I think there is something a little bit undignified in appealing to people's desires to gamble to raise...for a state to raise its revenues." He suggested that the states ought to raise taxes the legitimate way, and he said, "I have to tell you I don't exactly like the idea of government being involved in gambling." Now I think that says it all. I think that expresses the same reservation that many of us have expressed for years, who have been opposing lotteries for years, quite simply that we don't think it is appropriate for government, which is there to do good for people, to offer essential public services to engage in gambling to raise funds. Government can do better. Our governments in Nebraska can do better. Now each piece of legislation that we are presented here in the Legislature represents a philosophical statement. The workmen's compensation