government, to finance local government. That is the issue, and if that is the case perhaps we should open the gambling and the vice up all over the state to local subdivisions, the state, whatever. Katie, bar the door. It is inappropriate for government to encourage cities, villages, counties, whatever to become involved and engaged in gambling. Just because we leave the decision to a majority of the voters in that subdivision, or in the state, does not make it any more palatable to me or to a lot of other people in this state who are of like mind. Government should treat its citizens fairly, no question about it. Government should levy taxes up front, fairly, equitably. And then those taxes should be spent prudently...

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR BARRETT: ...not with the proceeds from gambling operations. Video slot gambling is a fraud on the public. It preys on the compulsive gambler, the misery of the poor, the desperate. It has no business in the State of Nebraska at the present time. Senator DeCamp, in case the point hasn't been made, Mr. President, I again fail to comprehend why this issue is under consideration again by this Legislature. I guess as far as I'm concerned the bottom line might be the fact that as far as I'm concerned it is contradictory...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR BARRETT: ...to legalize that which we now punish when it is done outside the law. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. We have some special guests this morning. Under the north balcony Senator Sandy Scofield has three guests there, Mrs. Karen Harvey, son, Zack, and daughter, Katie. Welcome from the Panhandle, glad to have you with us. Would you please welcome them. Heard it got 32 below out there yesterday morning, or something like that. Good you got out, isn't it. Okay. Senator Labedz, and then Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I urge the members not to vote to indefinitely postpone LB 144 until they've had the opportunity in full,