

May 7, 1991

LB 849
LR 24

is kind of a summary of the general position that the committee took, where we are standing right now on General File, and with that, I would urge your advancement of LR 24 and let's go on and discuss the specifics of LB 849. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. I will now recognize Senator Moore, followed by Senator Smith. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Madam President and members, I rise almost reluctantly to support LR 24. I have been of the opinion that for a variety of reasons a lottery in the State of Nebraska is not the wisest and most judicial thing for us, as state government, to be involved in. And, historically, I have always voted against these and, actually, when it is on the ballot, I may vote against it then, to tell you the truth. But I think it has become obvious to me that unless this Legislature places some language on the ballot and places in statute a proposal people understand, the people in the State of Nebraska are going to vote on a lottery in 1992, and it is not wise for us to simply ignore that fact, and just let it go the petition process, and let it happen. I think the best thing for us to do is recognize that there is certainly a strong desire on the minds of many people to vote on this issue, and LR 24 will allow us to do that, and allow us to place in statute the most reasonable way to move forward with this. But, as I say, I am reluctant to do that because I've always been of the opinion that the lottery in the State of Nebraska probably is not...it is one of those things that all too often in this state and this country already, there is a get rich quick scheme, easy way out, and all those things and I don't think the government should necessarily be involved in that message. It is not because I am morally opposed to gambling at all. I went to the race track on Saturday and lost plenty of money. I am not morally opposed in any way, shape or form. The problem is that many people across the State of Nebraska think the lottery is the answer to all of our ills. We can solve our property tax problem. We can solve our education problem. We can solve even to Senator Schmit's appetite for financing government. All those things can be financed with a lottery and it simply cannot be done. But having said all that, to ignore the fact that the people in this state, they have a strong desire to vote on this, I think it is prudent for us to place on the ballot a reasonable proposal, and if the people want to vote on it and vote it in, then they do that. Like I said, actually, I will be voting for it today, and when it comes in the ballot, I may well vote against it because