

I think that it creates many problems for the State of Nebraska. But I have become convinced with the issue on the ballot last year, if we don't do it, somebody else will, and so it is prudent for us, as lawmakers of the state, to place something on the ballot.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President. I will just speak, again, briefly, and I certainly agree and I think that Senator Will gave you a good summary, again, if you had forgotten, what we'd talked about just the other day, about the fact that the constitutional provision is something that has been bandied about, I guess, in the last number of months. In fact, it was something we put out of the committee last year. The provision was on the floor last year but it didn't move. It died at the end of the 60 day session. So this is not a new concept. I think it is a very important part of the package as far as state gambling is concerned. This is a new step that we are taking if we end up doing this, and I very strongly support the idea that the people should have some input on this issue. I think Senator Moore alluded to the fact that there has been, as you remember, recently a petition attempt for a state lottery, a so-called state lottery, which would have been a video lottery, and the people were very supportive until they found out exactly the provisions of the way that would be implemented. And for that reason, I think that we have seen there is increased support in a state lottery in the state, for sure since the years that I have been in the Legislature I have seen, and as a member of the committee for five years, I have seen an increasing support by people indicating to me that they would support a state run and regulated state lottery. I believe that they should tell us, though, then by their vote whether or not, in fact, this is the case, and I will tell you right now that this to me is the most important part of this package we are talking about right here. LR 24CA is the part that lets the people give us the message whether you support or oppose a state lottery. I actually have been in the position of opposing gambling, but I very much support the idea to let the people tell us, do they or do they not want because it is an issue that does pertain to all of the people of the State of Nebraska. For that reason, I am asking your support in the advancement of LR 24CA, and that, to me, is a separate issue from the advancement of the enabling legislation. The enabling legislation is a package which tells