

Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President and members, I rise to strongly oppose this lottery. If you want to kill horse racing in the State of Nebraska, I predict two years, if the people vote this in, two years after the passage of the lottery, you will have no more horse racing in the state. Horse racing is down now because of the economy and a few other things, and if you do this, I do predict that you will no longer have horse racing in the State of Nebraska. One thing that I am starting to see, which pleases me to no end, that most of your churches, I would say at least 95 percent of the churches in the state, oppose a lottery. And if they would just start speaking out against a lottery in the pulpit and in newsletters and get it out to the people how bad it is, I think they could defeat this proposal because you can bet your bottom dollar that there are going to be millions or thousands of dollars come into the state to get this passed. And so unless the churches take a big lead in this, I think it will pass. There is no question that lotteries and gambling creates more crime and corruption than you can ever wish to concede. Just check it out, look around to other states, and look at seven states that where representatives and senators in other states in the last two years have been indicted because of gambling operations payoffs to get things through in their states. It is unreal. In California, they adopted a lottery. Kind of interesting, my cousin lives in California, and she told me that after they got it in, two grocery stores, big grocery stores that she shops at, put it in, and in six and eight months, she noticed they had taken it out. And she asked the manager of one, how come you took out the lottery. We don't play it but I've noticed you've taken it out, and he said two simple reasons. One, our receipts, which were around \$100,000 a week went down to 60, 70 thousand. We was losing money. The second thing was, he said, we watched people that consistently shopped in our stores, and the people that were spending \$20 that had families and that were spending like \$12, spending 6 and 8 dollars of that for lottery tickets, and not taking the money home...taking food home for their families. They said two simple reasons, and I think they are darn good reasons why we don't need this kind of stuff, and so if you want this kind of thing to happen in your state, put it on the ballot and push to get it adopted. I guess that, if the Legislature, I have talked to a lot of Legislatures in other states and they have told me, and maybe I'm talking to the wrong legislator, but the Legislatures in other states said,