

expenditures. Therefore, any of the amendments that come up that would earmark where this money is going to go, I feel would be a mistake other than, perhaps, the one that was mentioned for a 1 percent to a gamblers anonymous type thing. Therefore, all of the amendments that come up that try to earmark funds I will be voting no. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. We will now go to the next speaker, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I will not be supporting Senator Smith's amendment, not because everything she said about the need to fund programs for the aging, I don't question anything she said about that, that it is a program we do need to fund. But I think that it is important that in distributing the lottery funds we be aware of a number of things. Item number one was an excellent point made just now by Senator Elmer, and that is that we ought to be very careful about using lottery funds to supplant General Fund funding of ongoing governmental projects. The reason for that is, as Senator Elmer so correctly stated, that lottery funds tend to fluctuate. If in a high year we decide, well, good, we have a lot of lottery funds so this year we will fund aging projects, projects for funding the Revenue Department, and two or three other things, and then we have a downturn in those lottery funds, we will be in a budgetary crisis, and he so well made that point. Secondly, I think if we get in the situation of trying to make a determination of getting a piece of the lottery pie already for every worthwhile project that comes along, pretty soon we are not going to have any funds left over. With the Legislature, it is quite possible that we could end up appropriating 150 percent of the funds, if everybody gets their 5 or 10 percent into the pot. What I am going to suggest we do with this is something a couple, two or three days ago I would not have been in a position where I would have been very supportive of, but I believe I am now, and that is that we not support any of these specific funding, earmarking amendments to the bill. We get to Senator Hall's amendment, Senator Hall has an amendment that would, keep in mind the bill right now does earmark all of the money to education improvement and enhancement, and, again, that is, obviously, something I support. I passed out a sheet of paper, and some people were wondering what in the world this was all about, that talks about all of the educational improvement and reform bills that have passed since 1994, it says here, I know it is not 1994, 1984, I