

the fund source is, whether it be lottery funds, federal funds, or any sort of grant program, whenever the fund source disappears, the need is there and all of a sudden we become the bad guy if we do not continue funding. And so I think the wise thing to do is whatever we do with these lottery funds that it goes to one-time either capital construction or some sort of one-time thing in education. If it is incentive programs, that the life of those incentive programs, it is made very clear that if something happens to the lottery in the near term, that it's not an ongoing commitment of state government. And if you put it into an item like Senator Smith's amendment, that is certainly an ongoing program of state government. If the revenue source dries up, it will certainly be the desire of the many advocates of things like this that we make up the funds, and though we certainly should and it would be my hope to do the best we can with General Funds, if we start using lottery funds, it'll eventually be a backdoor approach to a much greater need. So I would oppose Senator Smith's amendment, and any others like it that put these funds towards ongoing program expenditures of state government.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Next speaker is Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. If there is any project that is probably worthy of funding, it is probably this one, but I think we are getting the cart before the horse. We are talking about where we are going to spend all this money. First of all, we had better get the lottery passed by the people. It doesn't make sense to say we are going to put 10 percent here and 10 percent there and 5 percent there, when we haven't even passed the lottery yet. I think, first of all, let's try to get a program that will say that the funds will go to the General Fund, and I guess Senator Hall's amendment I could probably support because at least half of it is going to go there. But let's not earmark all these special programs when we haven't even passed it yet. First of all, let's get the lottery passed. I think the people of Nebraska probably will support a lottery, but you start earmarking all these funds, and pretty soon there is nothing left. So let's not get the cart first. Let's try to get the lottery first of all. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Rogers. Senator Rogers, did you wish to address the Smith amendment?