

AVERAGE AVERAGE USER GROUP INFORMATION "Certainly it raises the suspicion that the

## HJR 3-MORE THAN A LOTTERY

"Charitable" gambling clause could allow casinos, high-stakes bingo

If HJR 3 passes, it will amend the Constitution to put the state in the lottery business and give constitutional protection to pari-mutuel betting. But HJR 3 does something else that many of us

aren't aware of yet. The amendment's charitable gambling clause will open the door to full-time casinos and big-prize bingo parlors.

That's more gambling than most Idahoans would like to allow.

## Legislator: We were "snookered"

HJR 3 amends our Constitution to legalize so-called "charitable games of chance." At first, this sounds like harmless entertainment - so harmless that you almost overlook it. That's apparently what the legislature did when they decided - by one vote - to put HJR 3 on the ballot.

But now many legislators agree with Senator Laird Noh that the amendment has the kind of loopholes that "professional shyster types" have jumped through in other states.

legislature was somewhat snookered by the corporate lottery companies," said Noh, who voted to put HJR 3 on the ballot and is now urging its rejection (Twin Falls Times-News, 9 Oct. 1988).

Former Governor Robert Smylie called charitable gambling a "clever little provision" that "could be the real sneaker" (Idaho Statesman, 16 Oct. 1988).

What's so sneaky about church bingo? Trouble is, charitable gambling is much more than that.

## Full-time, professional casinos and bingo parlors

Idaho Attorney General Jim Jones explains:

"Quite frankly, I was practically floored when I learned recently that language similar to HJR 3, authorizing unrestricted charitable gaming, has been used in North Dakota to authorize casinotype games, such as poker and blackjack."

The Attorney General of North Dakota, Nicholas Spaeth, said that when charitable gambling was approved in his state, the intent was to legalize the very small-scale games already being played illegally. But, Spaeth explains:

"Charitable gambling grew beyond anybody's wildest imaginations, because everybody who had a charitable cause could get in the business of

(over, please)



How May IDAHY Help You?

LOW-COST LOANS. EASY REPAYMENT TERMS. FAST AND FRIENDLY LOAN SERVICE.