

Making Gambling Legal?

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A young lady comes into a flower shop. She is watching the buds of a bouquet of flowers and asking “Boss, when will these buds bloom?” The boss answers, “Small ones bloom on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Big buds bloom on Tuesday and Thursday.” Taiwanese must be familiar with this lottery commercial. Actually, the florist is talking about the days that the lottery runs, not the days that flowers bloom. A TV commercial for gambling? Exactly, and it was promoted by the government.

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A couple of years ago, the lottery was introduced to Taiwan and raised a controversial issue -- should gambling be legalized in Taiwan? It was controversial because our government planned to be the banker. Advocates of legalizing gambling believe that it will increase tax revenues and thus the government can use the revenues to impel the sport of soccer and to train local athletes. However, the government has a lot of reasons to forbid gambling instead of leading citizens to advocate a lottery.

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First, encouraging gambling will let people have a freeloading attitude, because gambling is an easy and quick way to make money. Who'll want to work every day under the nose of boss or labor under the blazing sun and just get a low and seldom-raised salary? Making a fortune overnight is the most common dream of human beings. However, this attitude will anaesthetize people and then they'll have less concentration, effort, and passion for their works. And this will have great effect on the economy of a country. Therefore, Taiwan will lose productivity and competitiveness.

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Second, it is very easy for human beings to be addicted to gambling because of greed. If a man wins money, it is hard to stop gambling because greed is a part of human nature. He'll want more and more. However, it is hard to win every time. If a man loses his money, he'll want to win it back or even win double back because

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wanting to be reconciled is also human nature. Bit by bit, people become addicted to gambling, and its consequences are serious.

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Third, our society will have more burdens because of gambling. It is obvious that there are more and more social problems due to lottery. Gambling addicts will spend most of their time on gambling and put gambling as their priority. Thus some people lose jobs because their bosses find out their gambling habits. Some people commit suicide because they can not pay their heavy debts. Some people leave their families because of the consequences. In order to resolve these consequences, the government will have to spend more resources and money.

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“Small ones bloom on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Big buds bloom on Tuesday and Thursday.” It is very ridiculous that our government encourages us to gamble five days a week. There are other ways to increase tax revenues, and the government should protect citizens rather than lead us into corruption.

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(Your arguments are weak because the government has already legalized gambling. If all those things you say about gambling are true, there should be some proof, since the lottery has been around for years now. Show the reader why the government should reverse its decision with facts, not generalizations and predictions.)

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