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## Gambling Gains Mixed for '76

**G**AMBLING won some and lost some in 1976. New Jersey voted to bring in casino gambling and Vermont approved a state lottery, but California turned down a greyhound gambling plan and Oklahoma pari-mutuel supporters backed away from another referendum.

Delaware voted down slot machines but previously had legalized betting on pro football games, raising mild protests from National Football League officials and some players.

Gambling in one form or another is now legal in 44 states. Fourteen states run lotteries as aids to finances but reports show they aren't turning out to be the bonanzas hoped for or promised.

The typical state's gambling net take amounts to less than 3 per cent of its revenue needs, largely because around 60 cents of every dollar collected in lotteries goes for prizes, advertising and sales commissions.

New York and other states have found that they cannot operate prof-

itably just on ready-made gamblers they can lure away from illegal gambling. They must promote gambling.

A New Hampshire lottery director said lotteries must be "merchandised, promoted and improved, like razors and detergents."

In a 413-page report, the Commission on Review of National Policy Toward Gambling last fall noted that some states can't seem to compete effectively with illegal gambling. It said the federal government ought to stop taxing gambling winnings because taxes discourage large bettors from using legal facilities.

Because organized crime has often been associated with illegal gambling, advocates of legal gambling have held up promises to drive syndicates out of business. Studies show that, if anything, state-sponsored wagering had increased illicit betting by providing mobsters with new targets for infiltration.

State gambling does not ensure

honest operations, either. Last year, thousands of New York tickets were sold for a single lottery drawing with identical tickets. In another, nearly half of the "winning" tickets were not sold at all. In a third foulup, workers in an "instant lottery" had access to winning numbers and codes which allowed them to know which sales agents held the winning tickets.

That is not the only way for gamblers to be certain of losing. If a person bought all tickets in a \$1 million lottery, he would lose \$600,000 because of costs and the state take.

Experts say that anyone who plays slot machines, dice, roulette or other repetitive games long enough, no matter what the payout, will eventually lose all of his money.

Oklahoma has legalized bingo but has turned down other gambling propositions. The Oklahoma City Fraternal Order of Police is running a bingo game to raise money to help pay for a lodge hall near the stockyards.