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LB 659

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Landis, on the Jensen amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: (Laugh) Whew! Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I understand there are people who want to gamble in this state and we have created mechanisms for them to do it, so if people are bound and determined to gamble they have an opportunity to do so. At this point, I have simplified my thinking generally on the area of gambling to say, look, does it extend gambling or not, and if it does I'm probably against it. There's about a 98 percent chance of voting against a bill that extends gambling. Now, does it extend it to new games? No. Does it extend it to new locations? No. But it does extend it in the speed, the rapidity, the ease, if you will, of playing the game and, genuinely speaking, I just don't want to help out any more gambling than what we got. We got plenty enough and maybe too much. I like the idea of the money for Gamblers Anonymous. I think that's appropriate. I want to see that money spent. I want to take one minute to tell us something that I promised a constituent I'd say on the floor. Jim Jurgens, a guy who lives in my district, a guy in failing eyesight and with no self-pity at all has changed his life and has become a masseuse, calls me up, oh, pretty regularly during a session, three, four times during a session, with ideas and he made a point to me. It's not directly related to LB 659, but this is as close as I'm going to get to a relevant moment and I said I'd say it on the floor. He said, you know, I don't like gambling, don't like the state lottery, and I sure don't think the University of Nebraska ought to be promoting it. And I said, what do you mean? He said, well, the prize in one of the latest state lotteries are these boxes and tickets in the sky boxes at the University of Nebraska. State government out getting people to gamble by giving away free tickets in the sky boxes, very exclusive, hoity-toity thing, and the university is playing along by adding not only their logo but the use of the sky boxes. And I said to him, you know, I think you're exactly right. I think that is...that's a shame. I'm sorry it's happening. I wish the university didn't do it. I can't tell the university not to do it, but I would be happy to make clear in a public forum I...I, too, join you, Jim Jurgens, in thinking and decrying that behavior. It seems to me the university could do much better things than give away sky box tickets to promote