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FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2004 LR 14

will allow the voters to keep a casino out of their county should they so choose, and I urge the adoption of AM2599. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. You've heard the opening on AM2599 offered by Senator Smith to LR 14CA. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Smith amendment, Senator Hartnett, followed by Senators Janssen, Smith, Erdman, Schrock, Schimek, and Beutler. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Smith in his close on the last amendment talked about we're having trouble with our budget and maybe the money needs to go into the General Fund. I think most states use it and that's what we did with the lottery, we didn't put it into the General Fund. We used it for other things. Has gambling helped industry? There was just an article in the World...or in the...not the World-Herald, not, no, they would never see that, where gambling would help. It was in the Wall Street Journal, it's in Senator Engel's area, is what the Winnebago Indian Tribe has used gambling as a basis for forming a corporation, Ho-Chunk, and that was the basis of it is that they...there is a person up there and has taken the money that was from gambling and has formed a...has done real well with that. That was the basis was from gambling. So it has helped the Native Americans in this state with the use of gaming money. In the Revenue Committee, we hear every day, we try to make changes in God/LB 775, it's like when we're trying to touch LB 775, it's like touching God, apple pie, and motherhood and all that good things and so forth. But it was interesting, we heard a person talk yesterday and was really trying to be lured to go to Council Bluffs. And part of the money that Council Bluffs and the state of Iowa uses, their money from economic development comes from the evils of gaming, and so it is used. It is not used for General Fund and I think that's the purpose that we should use it for is for making government better, so we maybe can attract more businesses into the state. But it has worked. If you...I don't have the Wall Street Journal in front of me, but it was really an interesting article, how a gentleman at Winnebago has used gambling as the basis, foundation, and then they spread it out and have expanded it and so forth. And there