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FLOOR DEBATE

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devastating, far-reaching addiction, when it comes to gambling. Now, what the government can't control I understand. What the Nebraska government can't control of people going over to the boats in Council Bluffs I understand. But for the government to officially sanction, for their own revenue purposes, an activity that is otherwise illegal, I have a hard time understanding. The poker game with quarters would still be illegal, even if LR 14CA...that is if the poker game occurred in someone's house or an unregulated environment. So we're still going to hold the philosophy, the government philosophy, that it's bad unless you give us the money. Okay? Gambling is bad unless you give the state part of the money. The Indian reservations that have casinos in Iowa, we heard yesterday about Ho-Chunk, Inc., I think it is, and how successful they are, and how many jobs they've provided, I could provide a lot of jobs with the same opportunity of people giving me money like that and especially in a limited economy. I'm not convinced that generating revenue from gambling to provide jobs for dealers and even jobs with the investments made from gambling revenues, I'm not convinced that that outweighs the benefits and especially after hearing some of these folks who I haven't heard from before that Senator Kremer pointed out, the bankers, some very successful bankers, that aren't even that far from the boats of Council Bluffs. Gambling, it seems, constantly needs propped up with a new form of gambling. Otherwise, it dies on the vine. We've seen the lottery. We've seen the lottery on the decline. So what do we do to prop it up? We try to pay them out more in prizes. What do we do to prop up bingo or keno, keno because it's boring? We try to give them video slots. So gambling, as we know it here in Nebraska, is constantly looked to, to be propped up with a new form which that shows us...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...the bigger picture of the unsuccessful nature and the ultimate drain on an economy that gambling, and especially casino gambling, slot machine gambling, brings about. So far, I believe it's been our policy in the state of Nebraska that you can gamble with the racetracks and pickle cards and bingo and keno because it's so slow, so the addictions aren't as rampant in that or you certainly don't lose as much money in the