

February 21, 1980

LB 612

about but don't try to infer that the state is going to lose money. You know, it is interesting talking about gambling. I, coming from Omaha, I have an opportunity to drive down Interstate 80 every day or fairly often and very often I see Senator Chambers and Senator Chambers occasionally, as I have done in the past too, has been known to exceed the speed limit of 55, on occasion, and maybe even go 60 or even a tiny bit past that. Now I would suggest, Senator Chambers, that is no more form of gambling than this bill. You are taking a chance when you are doing 65 or 70 or whatever that there is not a State Trooper out there hiding behind those trees, that there is not a State Trooper with a radar gun pointed on your car that is going to nail you and that is a chance that you take and that is a chance that you willingly take because you have a right to make that exercise. So I would suggest that we practice gambling every day. We practice gambling in the forms of the bills that we introduce. We practice gambling when we switch jobs, when we make a career decision, when we get married, when we get divorced, when we do just about anything. Every day is a gamble and perhaps that is the way life should be. To tell the people that you are too stupid or you are too dumb and we have got to protect you from yourself, I think that thing went out a long time ago. It certainly went out in prohibition. But passage or lack of passage of LB 612 is not going to stop those people from gambling. The people that want to gamble are going to gamble, and, Senator Chambers, no matter how eloquent you try to be, you can't refute that point. Now there is one point that I want to bring up, and if I can get a page here, let's talk for a minute about illegal gambling because I think this is a key point. It is figured, and this is a study from Gambling in America. It is a research study prepared by the National Gambling Commission. Now this was a commission that was established by Congress. It took three years to complete the study. It was a six hundred page document, a very complete and thorough investigation of gambling of all aspects, from lotteries to horse racing to casinos. You name it, they did it. The most thorough study ever undertaken in this area. They have said that eleven percent, eleven percent of the population will gamble illegally regardless, Senator Chambers, of what laws we pass, whether you make it a felony one and stick them in the gas chamber....

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SIMON: ...or whether you make it a misdemeanor four. People are going to gamble. In the fourteen states