

January 21, 1992 LB 201

what we would be doing with LB 201 is simply putting in statute parameters under which that negotiation would take place. I think it's a necessary bill. It should not be too controversial. I would urge your vote to advance it. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Will. The next speaker is Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Schellpeper, a few questions, if I may.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And I pose these questions with the admission that I'm not sure that I know of anything wrong with the bill except these compacts now bother me a lot, having been once bitten, as you know, on this kind of a deal. And, I guess, I view this whole process almost as if the tribe is a foreign nation and we are authorizing our executive branch to go out and negotiate a settlement with a foreign nation, if you could make an analogy to federal level...federal level activities. It appears the federal government is giving us, to a certain extent or within certain parameters, the power to do that. When they do something like that at the federal level, I think the end result of the negotiation usually comes back to the legislative body for some kind of approval on the exact treaty or negotiation or result that occurs. And the problem I have with a bill like this, if I'm understanding it correctly and I admittedly don't understand all the limitations and prerogatives in federal law and maybe that's what I need to understand, but there are...there are some...there's rather wide latitude here with regard to what the Governor can do in the sense, I suppose, of will this deal, for example, with the location of gambling activities. Could it deal with that?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: No, it has to be on Indian reservation land. Right now, Nebraska's law, Senator, is very silent on who has the authority to sign any agreement with any Indian tribe. And that's all we're doing with this bill is just saying the Governor will sign this agreement.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. What will be...

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: We're not opening up any more gambling.