

you, then it will be a signal, obviously more than a signal, it will mean that the bill is dead. If there aren't 25 of you, as a matter of fact, if there isn't a terribly strong vote on the motion to IPP, then that will be a signal that the Legislature is in fact serious about some expansion of gambling opportunities in the State of Nebraska to be enacted this session. So please take this vote seriously. It is one that Senator Hall is offering in good faith. He could be in a position of delaying and delaying and delaying a vote on a motion to IPP, but he's not doing that. He is putting it forward. Now let me tell you why I am going to oppose the motion. I have come down, and this is in my personal case, after quite a bit of soul searching I've really come down on the side of the proposition that indicates that it is the correct policy in our state today to expand the gambling available to citizens within our state and most importantly, maybe as Senator Hall indicated, to expand the ability of governments in the State of Nebraska to access the revenue available. And as in all gambling issues with me it's a tough issue because personally it's not an activity I enjoy myself. It's not one I partake in. In some cases it bothers me, imposing a tax on other individuals that I know I will not be paying myself. But I really do think the debate on whether expanded opportunities for Nebraskans to gamble is really a debate that is over. They have that opportunity. My guess would be that if you were to draw a...locate facilities within 50 miles of citizens of the State of Nebraska that offer expanded gambling, draw a 50 mile arc around those, you would take in the vast majority of Nebraska citizens today, do in fact have this opportunity. The debate on whether we're going to have expanded gambling is really one...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...that's lost. The question now before us is, what is going to be the policy of Nebraska as far as controlling that gambling that takes place and accessing the revenue that is available from it? I will indicate that before I close, however, that I am not going to be one that will vote for just any version of 851. There are certain policy considerations, safeguards that I'm going to want to see and I will be watching the debate unfold to make sure that those are there before I give a positive vote for 851. At this point, however, I will not be voting to indefinitely postpone it, but as a procedural item I would urge those of you who do have serious problems with