

I guess on their dealings with us, but they frankly represent our constituents. That's what they get...they're paid to be down here because our constituents can't be here, so they spell out those interests. But at the same time we can't lose sight of what the folks back home think on these issues because they don't always have the same interests and I appreciate those comments. I also appreciate Senator Chambers saying that he intends to speak to this issue rather "lengthily" and, Senator Chambers, I would expect nothing less. I look forward to the questions. The debate will be lively I'm sure and we'll walk through it page by page, line by line, word by word. That's fine by me. You know that. We'll deal with it straight up. We'll either be able to agree with amendments or we won't and we'll get hopefully something fashioned that makes sense and that this body can support and pass into law. But I clearly think that there are a number of issues out there that address the economics of this aspect and Senator Withem touched on that when he said, look, expanded gambling is here in Nebraska. It's just that we don't receive any of the benefit from it. If you argue that gambling brings with it a burden on society and there is a cost associated with it, that we have that right now because of the proximity of expanded gambling in this state because of the border states, we receive all of the burden and none of the benefit. Those tax dollars flow outside our borders and don't come back, but yet the tax dollars within our state are pressed ever harder because of the burden that we receive from that expanded gambling that happens to be taking place so close to our borders. I would urge you to think long and hard about this issue. I know that there are some of you who just absolutely oppose gambling and I know where Senator Chambers is going to be on this issue. I think I know where Senator Landis is going to be as well and I don't hold that against them because that's their firmly held belief. But it also happens to be mine that this is an issue we ought to address, that we can't put our head in the sand any longer, that we have to move forward. This is not a new proposal. Actually I've introduced a similar bill approximately five years ago. I've introduced this bill on and off for about the last seven years. It just happens to have come to a head, I guess, because of the recent experience in South Dakota, because of the expansion over in Council Bluffs. When you...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...look at the numbers that are in the paper and