

limited state casino gambling and it was legalized there in 1989. Three years later authorities reported a 60 percent increase in crime, forcing the town to double the size of its police force. Central City, Colorado, just two years after gambling was introduced, assaults and thefts had already increased 400 percent. In one survey of pathological gamblers who sought treatment, 75 percent indicated that they had committed a felony because of gambling. The dollar figure associated with these crimes are staggering and according to the gambling authority, Henry Leshieur, who chairs the Department of Criminal Justice in Illinois State University, pathological gamblers engage in an estimated 1.3 billion in insurance fraud alone. In the last four months I have spoken to many groups,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...rotary groups, business groups, and when I have asked the simple question, do you want gambling expanded in Nebraska, those that raised their hands were 10 to 15 percent. Now, I, too, have received many letters from those who would like to expand gambling, the bars, the lounges that are hurting because of economic conditions, particularly in Omaha, and what Bluffs Run has done to our community. But I'd also believe that if we install gambling we're going to have lounges, we're going to have restaurants that are going to go out of business because the people that have expendable income are now spending that on gambling. I do hope that you would support the kill motion on Senator Hall's amendment and would ask that you not expand gambling further in Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, just for openers I'm probably not going to vote for the kill motion. For those of us who are skeptical about gambling but hope to remain somewhat practical about things, I think the pragmatic question of the bleeding of revenues is an important question and I want to hear more about it. It doesn't do us very much good to be moralistic about the situation if we don't change the way one person behaves. We can't dictate the way people behave. There is...nothing we will do here will determine whether people take a short trip across the river and a third of our population is a short trip across one river to Iowa and there's lots of other bleeding possibilities in other areas. So I think we need to be somewhat pragmatic about the