

what I see with this...and I support this commission. But why are we, we're, you know, our constitution is going to be...is that better in the statutes as part of enabling legislation rather than in the constitution? That's my question.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yeah, definitely. It doesn't belong in the constitution that you're only going to have 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, whatever casinos.

SENATOR HARTNETT: No, but I mean...but this commission, wouldn't that be better in enabling legislation?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: No, I don't think so because every state that has had expanded gambling, Senator, if they put it in their constitution then this commission regulates, and you know that you have a high class commission. It gets out of the political arena, Senator, and that's what you'd have otherwise.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, I guess the question is here, are you going to let 25 people, maybe biased, maybe unbiased, dictate what the future of this state is, where it lies, where it's going? Or should you let 800,000 people do it, a million people do it, or whatever the registered voter population is? Should you let 25 biased people state the future, or should you let the people of Nebraska do it? Keep in mind this is a major, major, major issue. Very seldom do I say this, but for the record, and I don't say this very often, many people do, but for the record Jim Cudaback is against gambling. But I don't think 25 Jim Cudaback's should state whether Ron Withem, whether the press, whether a local operator of a shoe store, whether a grocery store should be able to gamble in Nebraska. I think it's wrong for us to dictate that. This is a major, major issue. It's going to affect your kids, our grandkids, the future of Nebraska. And I think the decision should be left up to the wise people of Nebraska. I committed to this way back when I was running for the Legislature, and most people at that time agreed with me. I think it's a major, major, major issue and some things should be left up to the people, some things should be not. Most issues we can deal with here. Most issues we can deal with on the floor. We can't