

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...speak its will.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, there has been a lot of toying around the edges. What we are talking about here is power. Another thing we are talking about is money, and a third thing is corruption. These tremendous, almost obscene, amounts of money involved in this kind of gambling makes it very clear that there will be misuse of that money; there will be the lining of palms; there will be the overwhelming of the Legislature; there will be an attempt to put people into office who will be kowtowing to the gambling interests. If you think the Legislature will be able to stand before those powerful gambling interests, just look at what we are doing today on this constitutional amendment. You think those high-priced, high-powered expensive lobbyists are out there because some club wants to have a few slot machines next to their pull-tab cards or whatever they call them. There is big money out there, and they've been twisting arms, they've been cajoling senators. I am sure they have been threatening others and intimidating them, cutting deals, and that's why it seems more senators apparently will support keeping this thing alive than at an earlier time. Money and raw power are in evidence. That's what is at work here and it needs to be brought out and I will do it. You all talk about sometimes morality or an inordinate or disproportionate impact on the poor. All of those things are true. You may talk about the people who will develop gambling problems or exacerbate those problems they have, that is true, but money is what we are talking about and that's what is at stake. The lesson taught by Watergate was taught by that greatest of instructors, Deep Throat, follow the money. Money, big shots and power are what we are talking about. We have the big-shot lobbyists on this one. You won't find them out there on issues related to the welfare of children, or the rights of women, or minorities, or those people whose rights and interests are to be protected by the Legislature, but you see their sweaty palms, their runny noses pressed against the windowpane out there. Do you think they are out there for their health or because they like somebody? They are being paid, and that tells you the kind of