

here. Senator Schellpeper, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to oppose the bracket. To bracket this bill does nothing. It does not let the people of this state vote. It does not let them have the right to vote, which I think they have. On issues such as this, I think it's very important that the people of this state have the right to say whether they want to vote on the issue, whether they want to expand or not. Maybe they will vote yes, maybe they will vote no. I have no idea. If you read this morning's paper, I think most of you have seen where we have expanded gambling in this state without a vote of the people. The Santee Tribe opened up their casino this past weekend. I imagine the other tribes will probably follow suit and, basically, what they are doing, they are saying if Nebraska is not going to do anything, we are going to go ahead, open up our casino; we are going to run it any way that we want to; we will set the rules; we will take all of the revenue; Nebraska, you keep bringing us money, and we will run the casinos in this state. And that's where we are at with our casinos. So whether or not the state of Nebraska wants to become involved and regulate and run casinos and put the money where it will do good for the people of the entire state and not just the tribes, which I agree they also need funds, but they could get some the other way too, but it's something that needs to be done. To have a few people in this body to say I am going to make that decision for the 32,000 people in my district is not right. I think they deserve to have that right to vote. LR 43CA, in itself, does not expand gambling. All we are doing is that we're putting it on the ballot and let the people decide. To say that you are opposed to expanded gambling has nothing to do with 43CA. LR 43CA only allows the Legislature to expand if the voters agree, but nothing in 43CA, itself, will allow expanded gambling, not until there is a vote of the people. The Attorney General, in several Opinions, every time we have tried to go into any kind of video machines, video...poker video, any video or electronic machines, he has stated that you can't expand into those games without a vote of the people, and that's why we need to have this vote. Not because we're going to, but just in case we do expand, then at least we can do it legally and with the vote of the people. Now if the people come back and vote in November and say, no, I do not want to expand, then gambling, as far as we know, expansion will not happen in this state. The Indians will expand. The Indian tribes will still have their