

casinos. Nebraska people will still be spending money at these casinos, but the people of this state for any program or any rules or any regulations will not happen. They are a sovereign nation. The Attorney General was asked this past...yesterday to go up and take a look at what would happen up there, if he could shut it down, and he said, no, I cannot; they are a sovereign nation, I cannot stop that casino.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: So now they've gone to the U.S. Attorney and he said, well, I don't know what I can do because they are a sovereign nation. Federal law allows them to expand into casino gambling. Just because they have video poker and video blackjack doesn't mean they are going to stop there. So you have to realize that in this state, whether or not you allow the people to vote, we are going to have casino gambling in this state. It will be run by the Indian tribes and not by the state of Nebraska. So I urge you to not support the bracket at this time, let the people decide. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I, too, rise in opposition to the bracket motion at this point. Obviously, the adoption of this motion takes LR 43CA off the table for the remainder of the session. So, actually, it is probably not a bad idea to have the motion in front of us right now because it will give us a sense where the body is on the issue, but, as Senator Schellpeper said, I think it's crucial that we keep the issue alive right now as an option. It is, I think, we get caught up in the debate and people begin to think that by passing LR 43CA we are actually implementing expanded gambling, and that could not be farther from the truth. As you know, if we would adopt LR 43 this session, what would happen is the amendment would go on the ballot for approval by the voters, and even then, even at that point, there would be no expansion of gambling in the state of Nebraska. We, as a Legislature, then would come back and consider whether that was something that we would like to do. What LR 43 is, quite simply, is keeping our options open, saying these are tools that are available to the state, if it is something that a majority of the Legislature subsequently would decide that we need for whatever reasons, for, you know, reasons of competition with