

I will answer the question that Senator Jensen was phrasing. There is no way to control it, Senator Jensen. We can look at the tactics used by the lobbyists and the progambling interests in this effort to try to get the Legislature to put this thing on the ballot. They will promise something to everybody. They give evasive answers. Senator Schellpeper was making assertions last week about the number of casinos. Today he kind of hedges and fudges because he knows that that is not a good answer to give because of some reactions to the large number of casinos that he mentioned. This bill, which...actually this proposed constitutional amendment, is like putting the key to the bank in the hands of the robbers. Then you give them the combination to the safe. What Senator Schellpeper, and others who support this proposal, keep saying is it doesn't implement anything. No. And when you give the robber the key to the bank, and the combination to the safe, that, in itself, does not result in money being stolen. The stealing occurs when the robber inserts the key in the lock, opens the door, then uses the combination when nobody is there, opens the safe, and makes with the booty. That's what will happen if such a proposal as the one before us is put to a vote. We all know, with all of this talk and posturing about letting the public vote, that this election, if one would occur, would be bought and paid for by the gambling interests. We know the impact that money has on elections. If that were not the case, the most hypocritical thing this Legislature has ever done is to pass legislation relating to limiting campaign expenditures. We know that elections can be bought. I do not trust the Legislature to do the right thing if an amendment, such as LR 43, were to be placed on the ballot and enacted. In effect, it says that the Legislature has carte blanche to legalize any type of gambling that the gambling lobby can force or coerce or bludgeon the Legislature into legalizing. I hate to be so blunt and honest in describing the weakness of my current colleagues in the Legislature, and those who are likely to follow us, but if we are students of history, we know that the way to get an idea of what may happen is to find out what already has occurred. Human nature does not alter, in my opinion. The strength and backbone of legislators has not changed measurably for the good, in my opinion, and based on my readings of history, and I am going way back even beyond the Roman Senate. I am going back to Moses on that mountain that we read about but which I don't believe really happened, but some people do, because I saw Charlton Heston doing it, and I don't think it was anything like what he