

economy. When you go and you put your money down and you do create some jobs in the gambling industry, but you are taking money that would be spent on other needed resources for families and for individuals. Those then convert into jobs for people that create those products and services and, in my view, that's the sort of thing we need more of. We need to create things that families can actually use and not things that actually divert us away from meeting our basic needs. Also, it is the low income that are particularly hit hard by gambling activity. It's a regressive tax, a regressive effort to raise money, and it's the poor in particular who are hurt by it. These are the reasons that I've opposed and continue to oppose gambling expansion in the state of Nebraska. I also want to share with you what I've described in the past as the domino theory of gambling. Essentially it is this, whatever level of gambling that you now have and allow in a state, it will eventually not be enough and there will be an attempt to expand that gambling or elevate it to a new level or in a more pervasive fashion. We started off in this state in 1930s with horse racing. We followed 20 years later with bingo in the 1950s. We followed that with pickle cards. That led eventually to the state lottery here just a few years ago, and after a short period of time, now we are talking about casinos. Of course, the question is, where do you go from casinos? How does it expand further from that? And what you do is you'll find out that whatever casinos start, there will be either a new type of a casino, the riverboats are one example that have come on from other types, or you will advertise differently, the promotions will be more pervasive. Whatever the problem is with gambling, it will only get worse. The point I am making is is that everybody wants something new and exciting and dramatic. And so whatever level that you are at, it will only grow from that point. So even if you feel comfortable, as some people were with allowing for a lottery a few years ago, at the time I argued you will see casinos follow, and that's what we are seeing today, an attempt to get casinos. And once you get casinos, there will be something that follows and that something will be worse than what we are even talking about today, and I, of course, do not like the idea of having casinos in the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: It's simply the evolution of entertainment of this fashion of trying to be the latest and greatest. And so