

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 23, 1999      LB 495

those things and we're going to do that which is easy, that which is convenient. We are advocating the fast buck, the shell game, the quick shuffle. So maybe when you pick up a book or maybe when you look at a teacher, you're seeing one of the benefits of gambling. Money from gambling goes to support the schools. You all are going to have to do what these senators have to do, and that's to determine how much of your principles can be purchased through money which is tainted. If the price is right, is it okay? Well, from the Legislature's standpoint that certainly is the case. If the price is right this bill takes an approach that says a program is worthwhile, but the tax money should not pay for it. It's something which will benefit all of society. Even if people do not have children who will participate in this program and benefit from it, they nevertheless gain because anything that helps any substantial portion of the society benefits everybody. If the program is good, if it has value, the Legislature should appropriate the money to pay for it. But the Legislature does not want to do that. If the Legislature were to put enough tax money into this bill to do what Senator Stuhr wants done, the Governor is going to veto it. The Legislature is not going to agree to put that much money into it anyway. So what are we talking about here? Smoke and mirrors. Smoke and mirrors. Young people would be justified in learning the scriptures thoroughly, then quoting them at the appropriate time. When the legislators come to you and say you shouldn't gamble because there are compulsive gamblers and they can't let it go and you won't know for sure whether that is your weakness until you start gambling so don't gamble, what gambling produces is not good for society, then you can get a very sanctimonious, self-righteous look on your face and quote Jesus--physician, heal thyself. And that's the message that young people ought to give to older people. Anybody can say fine sounding words. You can read books and find it said better than any of us on the floor can say it, so you know all of the things that you're going to have preached to you. You know already the content of the lectures. You hear them over and over and over and yet again. The problem is you look throughout society and you don't see the example. People say be chaste. That means don't engage in sexual activity before you're married. And then you have a President and you have congressmen and others whose lives don't measure up. And old people get embarrassed when we talk to you like this, but,