

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

February 24, 2000 LB 659

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes. Yes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: ...to...

SENATOR LYNCH: Oh, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: ...on the...

SENATOR LYNCH: I just wanted to stand...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...I just wanted to rise, I'm sorry, I wanted to rise in support of the Smith amendment. I think he explained and adequately explained, especially since 1995, how the revenues have been cut in half, in fact, 10 percent a year or more, down to where we're at now in 1999. And I know that the number of people who have gambling problems have increased, but just so you know if in fact the gambling revenues for charitable gaming have gone down obviously that many more people do not have problems as a result of charitable gaming. They have problems as a result of the expanded gambling, especially over in Iowa with all of the exotic professional gambling that exists in that area. But it's important that we continue to recognize that people have problems and they need to be helped, and I think it's important that we continue to recognize that need and so, therefore, I just stand, as I remember now, in support of the Smith amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Discussion on the Smith amendment to LB 659, Senator Hartnett, followed by Chambers, Beutler, and Janssen.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, I simply rise to support this...this amendment. I think that, maybe to answer Senator Beutler's question, I think what we heard in committee was that this problem is all over the state. It's a problem not only in my area, the Omaha area, but it's also all over the state. And I think that, as Senator Smith adequately explained, the money has gone down, the need has gone up, as we heard in...heard in the committee. So I simply rise to support this amendment.