

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

February 24, 2000 LB 659

losing dollars. We're losing the basis for these worthwhile projects in environment, schools and compulsive gambling. We had a hearing the other day on a bill and I asked one of the persons who were testifying if she thought that there was any...anywhere in the state of Nebraska that was immune...was immune to casino-type gambling, which in my opinion is one of the reasons that charitable gaming has fallen off so badly, and she said, no, there is nowhere in the state that we are immune from casino gambling. She said they will bring buses into remote areas, load up mostly retired people and give them a free meal, \$5 in tokens to spend at the casinos, and away they go and have a good time. Well, they're leaving that money outside of the state of Nebraska where they could be spending it on charitable gaming of some type and at least I would like to see it level off so we, you know, it doesn't decline anymore. But the way it's going, it's really declining and it just keeps declining. The addiction to gambling, I think it's about 60 percent of the people that go into the centers for compulsive gambling to get some help is from casino-type gambling, and the latest figures we've seen were 8 percent from charitable gaming and keno and so on like that, so 8 percent. Now, whether these figures are right or not I have no...I have no idea, but that's not...we could fund that. If we only had just those people, the \$300,000 is coming from one percent now would probably be enough to take care of that. But what we're...what we're doing, we have a problem, Senator Smith, and I agree with you there's a problem there, but it's not coming from charitable gaming. That's why, with the bill Senator Lynch has, we're trying to build that up, trying to get people to access charitable gaming, make it...make it more lucrative for them to play the charitable gaming and keno. So, in my opinion, that's what's happening. No one...no one in this state is immune from out-of-state...out-of-state casino-type gambling where 60 percent...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...60 percent of the people that are asking from help...for help are coming from that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Smith, on the Smith amendment to LB 659.