

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

March 1, 2000

LR 289

would permit them to have a casino on their ancestral lands, which would be in Knox or Boyd County. That's about as much of the amendment as I'm going to go into. There are huge issues here, there are issues of economic development and sovereignty, but I want to focus on why I think we need to pull LR 289 from committee. First of all, I want to tell you that in my 12 years in the Legislature I have never ever filed a motion to pull a bill from committee. I think this particular issue of...is of hyster...hysterical, yeah, historical importance and I think it's an issue that the full body ought to decide. Legislative rules do allow for this. There is a provision that we can pull a bill from committee with 25 votes. I would like to also tell you that sometimes a bill's referencing is a matter of chance. This year this bill, LR 289CA, was referenced to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Silly me, I said, why, this should probably go to the General Affairs Committee because they will be getting the trailer bill which will deal with the casino gambling issues and, since General Affairs deals with those kinds of issues, I thought let's have both bills in the same committee. I can tell you without a shadow of doubt that the bill would be on the floor today if Senator Janssen and I had not asked for the bill to be re-referenced. And we weren't...I mean, I wasn't doing it from any political motivations. I was doing it because I thought it was the right thing to do, so I would ask you to take that into consideration. LR 289CA, of course, is my priority bill for this session. The Legislature has debated and passed legislation to this effect already. It just wasn't a constitutional amendment. And I would ask you to look at the yellow sheet on the top of your packet. This language is in statute right now and it says that upon the request of an Indian tribe having jurisdiction over Indian lands in Nebraska, the Governor or his or her designated representative or representatives shall, pursuant to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, negotiate with such Indian tribe in good faith for the purpose of entering into a tribal-state compact governing the conduct of Class III gaming as defined in the act. A compact which is negotiated pursuant to this section shall be executed by the Governor, and this says without ratification of the Legislature. Secondly, it shall be the policy of this state that any compact negotiated pursuant to this section shall (a) protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public and (b) promote tribal economic development,