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LR 289

tribal self-sufficiency, and strong tribal government. And then again, compact negotiations shall be concluded (sic--conducted) pursuant to the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. This bill was discussed at great length in 1993. I went back and read the entire transcript of the hearing and all the stages of debate, and it was a very excellent discussion of issues that we are talking about here. You'll notice on the next sheet, the orange sheet, it tells you that 39 of our colleagues at that time voted in favor of that bill and 7 voted in the negative. You'll notice that Schimek was voting in the negative that year. That year I was still not convinced that this was a sovereignty issue; that it was really...I thought it was really a gambling issue, and I can't go into all of that now. But my point in introducing this is that we really already have something on the books and negotiations...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...were started in 1994, I believe it was, 1993, I'm not sure, and it came to a standstill. One of the reasons that it came to a standstill is because some advised that it really needed to be a constitutional amendment. I would like to tell you about California. California has passed a petition amendment on the ballot, statutory in nature, which allows casino gambling on reservation lands in their state. They have 40 casinos operating in their state, operated by tribes. There are 114 tribes in California. The court said, when the whole thing...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...went to court.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) Further debate on the motion to place LB (sic--LR) 289CA on General File, Senator Schmitt, followed by Senators Crosby, Janssen, Schrock, Robak, Schimek, Brashear, Beutler, and Cudaback. Senator Schmitt.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members, again I rise in support of this bill, to place this on General File and, again, it's not the gambling issue. It's a sovereignty issue.