

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

March 1, 2000

LR 289

here last week again on the charitable facilities who are having trouble...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...raising money. What's going to happen to those now? What's going to happen to the communities with keno? All that is going to be lost. But that's the way...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...gambling is.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. This is a bill about gambling. It's not a bill about sovereignty. Sovereignty means that you are possessed with the supreme power of the state. Sovereignty means that you are autonomous. Sovereignty means that you are independent. Sovereignty means that you don't wind up in U.S. District Court about gambling. This is about gambling. If I were to bring in 49 glasses of wine and offer everyone a toast of a very fine wine for any purpose but, before you drank it, I would tell you that 5 of you would drop dead when you drank because 5 of the glasses were poisoned, how many would drink that toast? Only the fools. And that is exactly the same percentage of people who have severe problems with compulsive gambling, who have ruined their lives, the lives of their friends, the lives of their families, have lost their jobs, have gone head over heels into debt, have sunken to despair and depression. But let's have some more of them. Let's spread it out throughout the state. This is not a matter of sovereignty. It's about gambling. And you can say that the Indian tribes are sovereign. That doesn't make them so in this regard. You can call a horse a hawk, but the horse can't fly and the hawk can't pull a plow. This is about gambling. I can't support this motion and I urge that all of you do not give it your support either. Thank you.