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LB 659

gambling in the state. I wouldn't do it. I intend to support the Jensen amendment, which allows me to vote for something positive rather than simply voting against LB 659, which is what I have been doing up till now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Matzke, on the Jensen amendment to the Lynch amendment to LB 659.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I support Senator Jensen's amendment. I think it is the only part of the bill that makes any sense at all. We do have a problem, a growing problem, with compulsive gambling. I thank my colleague, Senator Pedersen, for calling to my attention that there's a difference between compulsory and compulsive. The actual act deals with compulsive gambling, not compulsory. It's not compulsory. It still takes an act of will to gamble. So what this amendment is directed at is additional funding to treat the disease of compulsive gambling. I think we've all heard statistics, I've heard them many times, about what has happened in Council Bluffs. The increase in DUI arrests was several hundreds of percent, the additional welfare problems, the increase in bankruptcies, the effect upon the divorce rate. Now I suppose some of you might think I'm a bluenose and would outlaw gambling completely. I suppose if I were king for a day I would probably do that. But that's not going to happen. We're not going to eliminate it. The people of this state have expressed their view in support of certain types of gambling, but I think that we are at a real threshold decision at this time. Keno, frankly, has helped some communities. It's raised money for a lot of smaller communities and most of those communities have used it well, so I'm somewhat torn. But I have told my constituents that have written to me in favor of expanding keno that what they're risking is they're going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg, because this is a threshold decision where you're switching from a slow-moving, rather awkward pastime, gambling pastime, to the electronic age. And I would just like to read you a very, very interesting portion of this amendment. It appears on page 1 at line 17 and again on page 43 at line 16, and I quote from this amendment: "No device authorized by this section shall have a top or candle light located on the upper surface of the device, have a handle located on the side of the device which may or may