

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 659

who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease on the Jensen amendment. Senator Jensen, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you. You know, we all come to this body in different ways and in different thoughts and actions, and when I first was elected I was really ambivalent on gambling issues; really felt that they didn't have too bad an effect and, yes, those...some people are going to gamble no matter what you do, no matter what you set up. And it was the latter part of January when a young man called me who I've known all my life and was asking for some advice, and his advice, was what do I do? He said, I've...and, by the way, he also had had in an earlier...in earlier years some problems with drinking, and so he was going to AA and had been sober for about a year and a half, and he said I got involved in some pools at work, the football pools. We've all done that. I've done that. And he said, then I started playing keno and he said then I also started betting on weekends on the football, basketball games, and he says...I said, well, give me the bottom line. He says, I'm \$14,000 in debt, and he says, I'm afraid to tell my wife. He had three kids. And he says, I'm afraid it's going to ruin my marriage and he said, I also owe the bookie; this...this Wednesday is pay-up day. This is on Sunday, mind you. And he says, what do I do? And he was talking about stiffing the bookie. Well, I've been around long enough to know that that's sometimes not a good idea because he's going to come and find you and he's going to want his dollar whether it be in...in monetary or whether it be in flesh. And, anyway, I said, hey, your credit is still good; go to the bank, borrow the money, pay off your debts, and then this week when you go to your AA meeting not only say that, yes, I'm addicted to alcohol and drugs but also I have a problem with gambling. They all go to the same place. They all are treated the same way. He did that and, thank goodness, he...he had to work for a year and a half to pay off his debt, but that really started me thinking on this issue and I started looking at the "embryal" effect of how it starts and how do you get involved in this, and it is an insatiable appetite that needs to be fed, and the quicker it can