

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

February 27, 2003 LR 14

take some of its money and spend for projects it has that just happen to be located in Douglas County. So I don't think I can maybe make you happy on this one, perhaps.

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, I think my light is on next, and we'll discuss this a little further.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR BOURNE: I don't want to take up all of your time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. Thank you very much, Senator Bourne. I wanted you to see the colored charts that I just passed out to you. And I keep hearing on the floor that Iowa is raising its taxes, and Iowa is doing this and that and the other thing. Well, yes, Iowa is, because Iowa is smart enough not to put gambling revenues into their general fund budgets, by and large. But what Iowa has been able to do is set up this fund that provides all kinds of extra benefits for their citizens that they might not be able to accomplish otherwise. And I'm not going to go through those and read all those to you. But you notice, when I hear Senator Erdman talking about \$1,212 million (sic) in gambling costs, I would like to see the facts and figures on that. Because you see that Iowa, bigger state, more casinos, more population, spends \$2.8 million for its gamblers' treatment programs. So some of these figures, I think, get inflated. Also, the second page, if you'll look at it, mentions that the Iowa gaming industry employs over 10,000 people, purchases more than \$140 million of products and services from Iowa-based businesses,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...pays over \$200 million in taxes every year, funds thousands of charitable requests, adds value to the state's growing tourism and entertainment industries, purchases nearly 2 million pounds of beef, 1 million pounds of pork, et cetera, et cetera. And then on the final page, it does show you some specific projects that have been financed with some of these monies. I'm not advocating we go as far as Iowa has gone. But I am advocating that there are gaming revenues. I am not