

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

February 27, 2003 LR 14

for gambling or morally against gambling or somewhere in between, I hope that we can recognize the political realities that we're dealing with here. And let me tell you, I think that they are political realities. Whether you believe...and it may be true...that if we put some sort of casino in that it's going to be damaging to our state, or whether you believe it's going to be neutral, or whether you believe it's going to be a revenue enhancer, I think you can throw all that out the window. I think what you have to recognize, we've got a situation, a political situation, in Nebraska where the people are going to get to vote on something, whether we put it on the ballot or whether some group puts it on the ballot. It's only by a legal technicality that it hasn't already been on the ballot. And how that decision is going to come I do not know. I don't know when the decision will be made. It very well may be made before the session is over. I don't know. But if that decision comes out adverse, and if we do nothing, there will be another effort to put something on the ballot, and I predict with great certainty the odds are very high that something...the odds are much better than they would be, in my opinion, in blackjack or something like that, that there will be something on the ballot. Now, that leads me to the next point. I have become more and more conscious of what we put in our constitution. We have things in there now that I wish we could undo, and we have an awful time doing that. Once it's in there, it's in there. And so whatever we put in the constitution we should do very, very carefully and very thoughtfully, and it should be drafted in such a way that we have some flexibility in the Legislature to deal with the concept. Concepts should be in the constitution, not the details of the concept, because times change. A concept that makes 100 percent sense today may look like a very idiotic idea five years from now. So, I am for putting...I'm supporting putting concepts in the constitution that we agree on. But if you don't trust yourselves, this Legislature, to do the right thing when it comes to doing the detail, then I just...I have a problem with that. I mean, I trust this Legislature, not that we don't make mistakes, we have made mistakes, but we have the ability to correct...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.