

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

February 27, 2003 LR 14

thing. Now, I'm not going to suggest what the right thing is, except to tell you that this particular piece of legislation I'd have a difficult time supporting, for a number of reasons. First of all, it's been...many of the things that I would have to say have already been said by several other people. But I do have to emphasize the fact that anybody that doesn't think this isn't a redistribution of money is living in a fool's world. The same amount of money that's out there can be used to purchase automobiles or clothing or various other items, or it can be used to gamble. And the fact of the matter is, it's not going to bring in new money. I don't see planeloads of people from the oil-rich part of the world coming to Omaha or any other place in Nebraska to gamble. And they do that to Las Vegas. We all know that. So the idea that we're going to bring...generate new money in this state, in and of itself, I think is foolish thinking. But it's fair, and many people have said it, to debate this, and to try to come to some reasonable conclusion of what in your own mind you think is right. I have never supported expanded gambling, because I don't think it's right. But that doesn't mean that the people of this state don't want it. Now I will tell you that I did a...in my weekly news article, I put out a request for people to inform me as what they thought would be the proper thing to do. And it's certainly not scientific, everybody knows that. But nobody that responded to me with letters, telephone calls or e-mails said I ought to vote for it. They all said it was bad, I shouldn't vote for it. It's difficult to put a number on that, because the numbers were not that great, certainly, in regard to the number of the people that live in my district. But that was an indication that I got from the people who responded to the request that I had made for people to respond to me and tell me their thoughts. In speaking to people in private and in public around the area during the past several weeks, I've got a mixed feeling, like all of you had. People are saying, why wouldn't you let...why do you think 49 people in Lincoln are smarter than the people of this state? Why don't you let us vote on it? And other people say, well, the people shouldn't be allowed to vote on it because that's your job; we sent you up there to make a decision for us, and we hope you make the right decision. Well, the whole problem lies around the fact of what is the right decision, the right thing to do? In my mind, the right thing