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PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Janssen. The Chair would now recognize Senator Louden for his amendment to the committee amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, I might indicate the copies of Senator Louden's amendment have been distributed on the floor, AM0569. (Legislative Journal page 679.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. I studied Senator Janssen's amendment, LR 11CA, and this is something that I think we can probably go forward with. It isn't a matter of are we for or against gambling, but it's a matter of are we going to let the people in the state of Nebraska decide how they want to go about it? Do they want to have gambling? Do they have to do an initiative of their own or are we, as legislators, going to lead the way for something that will probably work in the future and something that the Legislature can have some control over? My amendment is introduced mostly because we have to consider the fact that there is more to Nebraska than here just in the western...or the eastern end of the state. We have our population areas coming in on the western end. We are working towards our Heartland express road that has an expressway from Denver through western Nebraska into the Dakotas. We're working on our port to plains transportation artery from the Gulf of Mexico to Saskatchewan. This goes through western Nebraska. These are all transportation arteries that are going to impact the western end of the state. So whatever we do we have to have some consideration that there will be tourism, there will be a population growth in the western end. There will be folks traveling through that area. These are the kind of people that help our tax base, people are coming through, stop, enjoy themselves for a day or two, spend a little money and go on to their destination. These are the kind of people you don't have to set up schools for. They come through and spend their money and we're tickled to death to have them work that way. This is the reason I introduced the amendment. It doesn't necessarily mean that there will be a casino in every county in the state.