

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

February 28, 2003 LR 11, 14

interesting to look at our neighbor to the east of us, Iowa, who started out in the gambling issue, and now we have a state I believe, as far as I'm concerned, is addicted to gambling as they keep expanding more and more, and maybe why shouldn't they? Because they have the opportunity to become parasites and suck off of all their surrounding neighbors. This is from the February 26th, Des Moines, a bill that would make sweeping changes in Iowa gambling laws by allowing three more gambling boats and permitting table games at racetrack casinos was introduced Tuesday in Iowa Senate. Then there is another bill that was introduced by senate Republicans, and I won't name them all, and also some Democrats. It would open the door for table games, video machines at racetracks, permit a license for an excursion boat, to conduct gaming...gambling games at facilities that are not on board the boat but within a quarter mile of the boat dock and eliminate the requirement that gambling boats cruise. So now we got gambling boats that don't cruise anymore, and we're also going to...or Iowa is talking about just what Senator Brashear was talking about, of taking it and expanding it off the excursion boat or off the boats, and I don't know whether these are going to be kiosks or what. Who knows, maybe they'll have spots in between the highways and roadways where people can solicit gambling much as we have had in the past in Omaha of soliciting donations for charitable institutions. I have no idea. All I'm saying is that once you open the door, the door is open, and everything comes through it. And I hope that Nebraska doesn't get addicted to gambling like our neighbor to the west or to the east. When I came in this morning I really thought that we would be discussing Senator Schrock's bill that would have expanded gambling into the racetracks that we have. And I really had concern over that only because one of those racetracks is the State Fairgrounds, and would we allow a casino on the campus of the University of Nebraska? And that is concerning. I couldn't vote for LR 14CA. I'm afraid I cannot vote for LR 11CA because we are opening that door once more. And if you wonder sometimes are you exposed to lobbying, wait till we pass this amendment and the lobbying that you're going to get. And it won't stop next year or the year after that. It will go on forever. I also oppose LR 11CA. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.