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FLOOR DEBATE

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head off that set of steam, that steam that's out there in the public that wants to do anything. We don't want to do anything; we need to do something. It's the rifle shot that we should control. My difficulty with LR 11CA is that it is too broad, in my estimation. And unlike most other situations, this is a power which, when given to us, has not been practiced with the highest legislative ethics. I want a rifle shot bill and I'll vote for it--a casino in Omaha, casinos with the Indian reservations, something for the racetracks and I'm a yes vote.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Erdman, followed by Senator Smith, Vrtiska, Hartnett, Connealy, Cunningham, and Schimek. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, it's taken me an hour and 47 minutes to get up to talk, but I'm still opposed, in case anyone is keeping track at home. You know, it is interesting, and speaking to the amendment that we have specifically before us, I believe that I was the only one or maybe one of few, I don't know, maybe Senator Schimek also voted against this amendment in committee, but I voted against this amendment as well, and I think for some good reasons that Senator Chambers brought up on the issue of credit. But I think those issues are going to come up in the future as well because of the fact that the gaming industry, as they call themselves, even though they are explicitly gambling, is essentially in the business of getting as much money from you as they possibly can, and the way that they can do that is through credit. I did mention yesterday it was kind of...it was tried to be dismissed at the issue that are really the collateral effects, if you will, the collateral damage that comes from gambling, and I mentioned yesterday that the social costs of gambling are astronomical. In the state of Nebraska right now, according to this study, not done by me, no, no, no, done by the Nebraska Gamblers Assistance Program, people that are currently on payroll with our state dollars, issued their annual report for 2002. They say, according to the NORC figures, which is a National Opinion Research Center, placed gambler social costs at \$5,100 for problem gamblers, and \$10,500 for pathological or severe gamblers. They project that currently in the state of Nebraska we have about 41,610 problem