

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

February 28, 2003 LR 11

voted for it, but they want to see it on the ballot because they feel like they've been left out somehow. What Senator Tyson has so aptly pointed out, that we're a representative democracy, and if you go back and look at true democracies, you go back to Greece and Athens and some of those societies that were early, and not too many people actually got to vote in those situations. The idea of tourism, western Nebraska is a great location for tourism because we have a lot to offer. I've got Lake McConaughy in my district, highly visited. Chimney Rock, number one visited landmark on the Oregon Trail. That's from Saint Louis to Oregon, number one, Bayard, Nebraska. Hard to believe, huh? And in the state of Nebraska the number two visited tourist attraction in the state is Cabela's, the actual store that shows you all the nice products that they have to sell in the displays. We can do tourism without casinos, because realistically we will have to because you're not going to see one of these show up in western Nebraska, guarantee it. Now, I think Senator Schimek brings up a good point--the idea that we should let the people know what the potential of this amendment would look like in statute, in other words, some type of enabling legislation to kind of give some guidance to introduce next year if we would put this on the ballot. Why don't we just say, you know what, we want to put something out there to get this approved and then we'll do the bait and switch? We'll put something out that we know the people will end up putting a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...yes vote down on expanding gambling in the state of Nebraska, and then we'll sneak around behind and we'll change the rules altogether to say whatever it is we want it to say. You know why we would do that? You know why the pressure would be there? Because if you look at the list that Senator Schimek passed out, there's 12 groups here that have an interest and they're all in favor of this. Why? Because you could put video slot machines in the state of Nebraska if the Legislature approves; you could put a casino anywhere in the state of Nebraska that the Legislature would approve. Again, it opens it up, and you could do the bait and switch. There's nothing that says you couldn't. We could tell the people we were honestly