

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

February 28, 2003 LR 11

that that's what you were going to do when you got elected. Now, two years ago it was a big issue because we weren't talking about budgets, we weren't talking about other things. We were talking about social issues. We were talking about state aid stabilization. We were talking about all kinds of other ideas out there and gambling was a big issue, and it is a big issue for a lot of people in the state of Nebraska, and it's very divided. And I don't stand on the floor assuming that I'm going to influence you either one way or another, but I think we need to be fair about the process that's in place here. The process we have in place is that if we, the body, see the people of the state of Nebraska having a need beyond what we can control or what we can provide, we can amend or provide for an amendment to the constitution. As has been pointed out, we do it very carefully and very rarely, which I think is correct. Senator McDonald had a bill earlier on voting rights and who can serve and some of those issues, and we disposed of that bill because of the questions, the unknowns. There are more unknowns on this proposal than you can shake a stick at. It's unbelievable. But the pressure is such that the people say, we want to vote, we going to put it out there. And I made a point to a young lady today when I e-mailed her and she said, I'm opposed to gambling but I want to vote, and I asked her the question of, if it goes before the people and you lose, would it be better off not to be before the people and allow the representative democracy that we have to work? So, yeah, that makes more sense. So the idea that some are here to represent the people and others aren't by letting them vote or not is absolutely ridiculous. The fact is, is that we have an opportunity to weigh in on this, and some of us are going to vote no. Some of us are going to vote yes. Does that makes us any worse? No. Does it make us any better? Absolutely not. Does that make people think anything less of you, at least within the body? I don't think so. But the point is, is that it's not going to get any better if we don't actually pass something, because the pressures that put the petition...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...on the ballot or try to are still going to be out there. Fact: They can't do any worse than what they did