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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 11

the compromise was between the two bills, not between any. .necessarily, the entire Legislature. And if that was implied, Senator Smith, I apologize. It was simply trying to find middle ground between the two bills. I wanted to respond a little bit to Senator Brashear's questioning. And something that was discussed was, is the new section in addition to or does it replace those provisions that are previously..or immediately preceding this new provision in the constitution? And perhaps in (5)(a), on page 2, there should be another phrase added, I don't know, that says something about not previously stated in the constitution. The point is, is that the five horse tracks shall remain exclusive of this gambling, or the casino venture, the gaming. However, this gaming could go to any of those five racetracks. There's nothing in here that would preclude that from happening. But it...this is in addition to. These eight locations are in addition to that type of gaming that's already existing in this state. If clarification needs to be brought to resolve that, why, that's fine. But I thought it was fairly clear that this is in addition to and not...doesn't exclude the racetracks in any fashion. A lot of the debate we had centered on the fact that while people found LR 11CA more appealing, they were concerned that this would cause gaming everywhere. A lot of the debate was...that we had talked about the first two days was how bad the slot machine initiative that's on the ballot, or was going to be on the ballot, was for the state. And what this tries to do is limit that. This says that up to eight locations or facilities in the state may be authorized by the Legislature. In my mind, this would create eight locations, eight facilities that allow casino gaming. Could be at racetracks. Doesn't have to be. But it would prevent the type of conduct that people were afraid of, that there'd be a slot machine in every QuikTrip, or...not to mention QuikTrip specifically, but every convenience store in the state. And that's what we're trying to avoid. And another thing I want to say is that it...there will be enabling legislation, assuming this passes, to come back to allocate these facilities. And it is my strong intent or desire that these facilities be allocated throughout Nebraska, not just in the middle part of the state or the western part of the state or the eastern part of the state, but that these facilities be equally allocated throughout the state, so that everybody enjoys