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FLOOR DEBATE

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point. The point is, is that not everyone was at the table, because not everyone is going to be at the table, because if everyone was at the table, we'd go back to LR 11CA and have wide-open gambling across the state. And the people won't vote for that. They probably won't vote for this either, at least an overwhelming majority of them. So again, I don't have a problem. We could debate this all week for all I care. And we could debate it all week on Select File and on Final Reading again. Because I...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...think that when we get to the discussion about what it is we're going to do here, Senator Schimek can bring the numbers from Council Bluffs and say, well, we've collected \$5 million in property taxes from the facilities. Great. They've also raised property taxes on everybody else that was living there before those facilities have come in, since they've come in, by about ten percent over the last two years. So in addition to the \$5 million that they're now generating in revenue from the facilities that are there, and the \$9.3 million that they're supposedly getting in direct property tax relief from the casinos, they're also increasing property taxes. Let's talk about that. Let's talk about the reality that most people in the state of Nebraska think that the reason we should have casinos in Nebraska is that we're going to somehow lower their taxes or we're going to somehow keep the money from going to Iowa. Maybe in 2008. But I doubt it even then. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. The issue before us is the Janssen amendment to the constitutional amendment LR 11CA. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Stuthman and ten others.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, the course of debate today is predictable, in the sense that various groups who oppose this bill will try to attack it, and to create as much confusion as possible, with the hope that they can disintegrate the coalition and nothing will happen. And if they can't do that, the tactic will then be to delay. Why do it