

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

March 4, 2003

LR 11

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise, I'm going to finally let everybody know where I'm at, in opposition to AM0656, and the underlying bill, LR 11CA. You know, it's kind of interesting, at first I thought all the lobbies and all the groups were behind LR 11CA, and I think they were. Now I think a lot of them are falling off, but it is interesting, and, Senator Schimek, I'm going to share with you that I don't think you've ever offended me by anything you've said here. So don't worry about doing that even if you do. But I do want to share with you, it's interesting the idea that we're going to put out or we're going to pass enabling legislation ahead of the constitutional amendment, and then come back and reauthorize it. Okay, interesting idea, a precedent has been set, should we do it again? There is nothing to guarantee that when we come back, after the constitutional amendment had been passed, that we're going to reauthorize exactly what was in the previous legislation because, you see, there is always elections. There is always appointments. There is always a lot of things that come about between the time that that would happen, that some people might not be here. The body might change their position, and we still could have debate and switch. But I have been thinking long and hard about this, Senator Schimek, and I've been trying to figure out what might be some good opportunities for some of the members of the body after term limits. And I didn't have to look very far. I found one that was a pretty good example. Mr. Abboud, when he was here, he opposed gambling, but now he is lobbying in favor of it. So I'm thinking maybe that there would be an opportunity for some of the members, who saw this process go through, have a chance to lobby. And, so, I'm going to share a little comment with the body. Shouldn't take too long, then we can go about our merry way. You all have a copy of this as well. I wanted to make sure that you had it in your hands. It's called the "Homecoming in the Law"making" and this is dedicated to Chris Abboud, Senator Schimek, and you can appreciate that: Many years did Chris toil, in the Legislature from Omaha soil. He once fought gambling and a bookie, now he thinks, yeah, it's worth a looky. Now Chris watched his little bro grow up and promote lotto. But now Andy is looking back, for a new place to hang his hat. Andy works for a high roller, who scrolled into