

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

March 4, 2003            LR 11

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I would agree.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why is there so much opposition to sports betting, to allowing the Legislature to enact laws legalizing sports betting?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Frankly, I don't know, Senator, and it didn't come up in the discussion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would you be opposed to an amendment that would do that?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: At this time, I'm resisting any additional kinds of gambling, Senator Chambers, but you're certainly welcome to make that amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator, Senator Schimek, you know that's like saying, and I'm not saying you're saying this, that's like saying I want to legalize methamphetamine but I'm against sleeping pills. And you don't have to respond to that.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I won't. (Laughing)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. And that's my...the point I'm trying to make is this. Every kind of crazy, asinine, foolish gambling is legalized or there is an attempt to legalize it. Lotteries, you have one out of several million chances. Horse racing, if there is eight horses in the race, however many, you got one chance out of however many there are. Then you have to put more money up than you're going to get back. Everything is against you. Pickle cards, the odds are long. Only in sports betting do you have favorable odds, 50-50 chance of winning every time you lay a bet, and that's why they're opposed to that kind of gambling. But why should they be opposed to it when every other kind is to be legalized? I would not want to see any legal gambling, but it's too late to even talk seriously about that occurring. Horse racing failed under its own weight. It imploded. Nebraska does not have a large population, so people are counting on others coming in, the suckers being lured into Nebraska to leave their money here. Gypsies, transient thieves,