

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

March 4, 2003

LR 11

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JOHNSON: And so I would tend to favor to go this way. I think this one is too broad and I think that we need to...my personal opinion is that we need to have very restricted gambling. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the legislative body, there is an advertising jingle that goes you can have it your way at Burger King. I'm sorry, folks, you can't have it your way here. You've got to compromise. If there is one thing I've learned about serving in this body in 10 plus years that if you don't compromise you don't get anything done. I believe there will be something on the ballot in 2004, and at the rate we're going, it's not going to come from the Legislature. Senator Johnson, I kind of agree with you, it should be very narrow in focus, and that's what Senator Schimek thought. But I was hearing on the floor that it was too narrow, so let's go with Senator Janssen's. But neither one of them generated enough support, and now I'm hearing people say, this won't work. Well, if this doesn't work, what will? You're going to go home in June, and there will be nothing on the ballot for 2004, and we will have failed. And you can have these blinders on, but the last time I checked, Iowa had five casinos on our border. South Dakota has three, and Kansas has four in the northeastern part of the state. We're one of only 13 states that does not allow slot machines. And, quite frankly, if we put something on the ballot and the voters turn it down, that is fine with me. But I thought it was our responsibility, as state representatives, to put something reasonable on the ballot for the voters of this state to either accept or reject. Now I'm getting phone calls and e-mails from my bar owners. They want it in their bars. How many of you people want it in your bars? Raise your hand. How many of you want it in your bowling alleys? I don't know what you're going to get if we don't do something, but I don't think we're going to be too proud. You're going to get something, and you're not going to be able to have it your way. But if you don't compromise, there won't