

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

March 4, 2003 LR 11

Small towns struggled, small Legion Clubs struggled to keep those baseball, the American Legion baseball teams on the field. Every year they would have pancake feeds. They'd have, you name it, all kinds of gimmicks, you might call them, to raise a few bucks to let our kids play baseball. All of sudden this state decides that it's all right to use pickle tickets. A lot of the Legion Clubs have applied for license for pickle tickets. The one American Legion Club that I belong to now has one of the finest facilities in the state. They have no problem with the Babe Ruth baseball, the American Legion baseball, you can call it whatever you want. That's what it started out as is the Babe Ruth League. They have plenty of money. They pay for the lights for the evening games along with the city. They make sure that those young people have equipment. And that came from, and I don't care what you call it, that is gambling. You're gambling on a pickle ticket. If you've got...it's no different than a slot machine. Three cherries and you win a couple of bucks. What's it on a slot machine? Same situation, the only thing is you have to pull the tab across where you push a button on a slot machine. Used to call them one-arm bandits, and apparently that got too strenuous so they made them electronic, and now you push a button. Look at what has happened to the Environmental Trust Fund. Didn't have any money, was almost nonexistent. We had to fund it through General Fund dollars. Excellence in Education, that is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...another fund that's come from a form of gambling. Do we want to do away with that? No. But I'll tell you what, it's slowing up in this state because of one thing, the gambling that's going on around us. Now we have a bill in General Affairs that will enhance the Education Innovation Fund and we're going to offer...this bill would authorize them to bigger payouts to try to enhance that type of gaming because of the loss we've had to other states. How long are we going to sit on our hands and make the people, make your constituents come out and say, we are going to support something that the Legislature has no control of,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.