

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

March 5, 2003

LR 11

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Combs. (Visitors and doctor of the day introduced.) Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, members of the Legislature, I wanted to just reiterate one thing about the pending amendment before you so it's clearly understood by everybody. This amendment makes clear that under the new language we're putting into the bill there can be eight casino locations; that you do not count against that number the already existing racetracks so that the number is reduced but, be clear about it, that doesn't mean that a racetrack can't be one of the new eight locations under this new language. They can be. Racetracks are still eligible to be picked. It just means that we solve Senator Brashear's problem of not having them already count against the eight by virtue of the fact that they, in fact, do some things called...that would be defined as gaming right now in the form of simulcasting and some of the things that they do. And I just hope that that's clear to everybody. We're not cutting out the racetracks by this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'd rather take advice on fidelity in marriage from Jimmy Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart than I would take advice from the Omaha World-Herald about gambling. I have never seen them criticize the state of Iowa or South Dakota or Kansas for their gambling proposals that go on there and the activities that go on there. If you look in the Sunday World-Herald you will see three big ads for the casinos. Bluffs Run, Harrah's, and Ameristar. I don't understand where they're coming from, and I don't understand what they're trying to do. If it wasn't for the petition process, I don't think we'd be here, but the state of Nebraska says that's the other house we have in this state and so that's what we're left to deal with. Are you ready to take that chance? I don't think I am. I'm a farmer and, yes, I feed cattle, and that is a gamble. It's a gamble that I'm willing to take. I'm not willing to gamble on the paid petitioners in the state of Nebraska. If they're willing to spend the money they are on the lobbyists out here which, by the way, I don't think