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FLOOR DEBATE

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are shaping much of the debate in here, but if they're willing to spend that kind of money, they will hire the paid petitioners to put a proposal on the ballot. And you can stand on the railroad track and say you're opposed to this, but I'll guarantee you the train is liable to run over you. I think it's up to us to put a reasonable proposal on the ballot and I challenge those of you, who are going to vote no on this, tell me your plan. There are 37 states now that have slot machines legalized as a form of gaming. Tell me your plan. Are you going to stop the paid petitioners who, by the way, they don't want the Legislature to have any control over the revenue? They don't want the state of Nebraska to have any control over the state of...over the revenue. What is your plan? This is not a perfect plan. And I'm willing to accept, if this goes on the ballot, I'm willing to accept defeat. If you're a keno supporter or a pickle card supporter or whatever, those things are going by the wayside anyway. They're going to fade, I believe, and if they don't that's fine. But slot machines in every bar and bowling alley and restaurant in this state is not going to help keno either. So choose your poison. Do what is rational. Put something in front of the voters that they can say yes or no to. And, quite frankly, I'm comfortable with them if they do say no. But I'm not willing to take the advice of the Omaha World-Herald that speaks out of both...you know, it's hypocritical, it's very hypocritical. Maybe they can shape the debate on the floor of this Legislature, but I just don't see what they're doing as being productive. And, yes, we all know the ills, we all know they're there, but tell that to our neighboring states. It didn't stop them from preying on our citizens, and that's what they've done, and the question is, which side of the river are you going to gamble on? Which side of the river are you going to gamble on, and is Iowa going to benefit from the proceeds or is Nebraska? Take your choice. That concludes my remarks.

SENATOR HARTNETT PRESIDING

SENATOR HARTNETT: Next speaker is Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Members of the Legislature, when I was a young man many years ago I used to