

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

March 5, 2003

LR 11

out. So again, I don't believe that we should sugarcoat some of these things. I think we should have an honest discussion. And I think that we are. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Janssen, followed by Smith, Schimek, Kremer, Tyson.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Hartnett and members. Senator Chambers was talking about Ak-Sar-Ben and the horse tracks. Yes, you know, and they...the revenues that were generated there helped communities in Nebraska. I can remember what they did for the 4-H clubs, the rescue squad units that they'd buy for the rural fire protection districts, cities and towns. But that...you're absolutely right, Senator. That came from the losers. That came from the losers. And you'll see the signs on the casinos. You know, 92 percent, 92 percent are the winners. Well, you know, if you bet a dollar, you're only going to go home with 92 cents because you're going to leave that portion there. That's the way it is. And I'm sure everyone understands that. And we do have addiction problems. And it has raised in Nebraska. But so far, I haven't seen any money coming from Iowa to help us. We are using those dollars that we have from our small gaming that we have in Nebraska now. Senator Smith has brought bills in to raise that. And it's for a good cause. We try to take care of the addiction in this state. But our numbers are limited. Our resources are limited. And we can't take care of the problems, all of the problems. We try, but we don't seem to get it done with that. And we need some extra dollars if we are going to be in...saturated with the gambling all the way around our state. And all we're really doing is asking for you to allow the people to decide this. And I've said this before. I'll abide by whatever the people in this state, what their decision is. But first we have to let...allow them to decide what they want to do. I've got a little interesting profile here from...we'll, I'm not at will to say where it came from. But it shows the average casino participant at...by the rate of their income. And 36 percent, the highest percentage of the people that go to the casinos, are the highest-income people; 35 percent of the people that go there, average income is over \$95,000 a year. Those under \$25,000 are 22 percent. And the rest is on a graduated scale.