

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

March 5, 2003            LR 11

can't...if you think it's a moral issue, we can't legislate morality anyway. At the same time, I have a distinct opposition to it simply because I don't think it's good for the state, I don't think it does the things that many people would hope it would do. In fact, if I thought it would do it, I might even be convinced to change my mind. But we all know that it's not going to have any effect on our...you know, on our economic problems that we're in. That's been...even those who supported it acknowledge that it's not going to change the economic disadvantage that we now are enjoying, if that's the right word, in Nebraska and many states, and even those that have gambling. So I have a difficult time on weighing the balance of what's right and what's wrong. But to my own individual perspective, I feel like that I would be a traitor to myself if I would change my mind and decide that gambling is something that I should support and try to advance on this floor. I do have the concern that's been expressed here by many, and that is, will we have gambling whether I like it or not? And the answer may be yes. People may get a chance to vote on this. So I'm not telling you anything that everybody around here doesn't know and everybody understands, and that is, there are options out there that we can make the decisions here on the floor or we can put it back in people's hands and let them make the decision. Obviously, I'm troubled, as I've demonstrated, because it's an issue that's very troubling...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...to many of us. But I've not been totally convinced that doing the right thing would be to vote to advance this bill. So, I've pretty much said what I feel. And I do have deep concerns. With that, Mr. Speaker, I'll turn the rest of my time back to your...to you. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith has called the question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question then before us is whether debate shall cease. All in favor vote aye, and opposed nay.