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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 11

whatever form it was presented, would be successful as far as getting enough signatures to get on the ballot. Once a gambling proposition is on the ballot, then I think the money would come rolling in here, just like the rains fell that made Noah have to get on that ark to keep from drowning. So I am dealing with this now, not from the standpoint of my personal attitudes toward gambling, because they have not changed. On other occasions I've told you all that I may be the only one who will acknowledge the fact that I am a politician. There come times when I make decisions which are purely political, from top to bottom, front to back, stem to stern, fore to aft, port to starboard, every way you want to look at it. From any angle, it is political. And the political decision I am going to take is based on my conviction that a worse thing would be done by way of a petition. I'm saying this now because I'm not going to participate in the debate. There's no way I can change anybody's mind as far as how they feel about gambling. If after all of the time that has elapsed since this bill was on General File they have not arrived at the conclusion I have arrived at, and will change their mind and their vote, nothing I say is going to achieve that. So it would be pointless for me to extend the debate. But I want it crystal clear in the record that I am changing my vote. I have railed against the evils of gambling probably to a greater extent than anybody on the floor. You should see all of the laudatory mail that I get. I've even gotten mail from reverends...preachers, if you all don't know what those are...telling me how many other things they disagree with me on, but on this one, how right I am. And if I could just learn to see other issues as rightly as I see this one, maybe I could pass through the Pearly Gates. Despite all of that favorable mail, the supportive telephone conversations, I am going to change my vote. I am going to vote for LR 11CA. And beyond that, I'm going to vote for it, whatever form it takes, whatever form it takes. Once I have crossed that Rubicon from the realm of personal beliefs to the realm of political expediency, if you will, I want to make it as coldly political as I can. There is no admixture of anything. And if being coldly political consigns me to the nether regions, I can just smile, then even (laugh) laugh good-naturedly, because my place is reserved there already. And once the temperature, in my view, reaches 200 degrees, they can make it 2,000 degrees and