

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

April 2, 2003 LR 11

it's no worse. Once the water is boiling, they can make it boil even hotter, and you won't even notice it. So from that standpoint, I have nothing to lose. I have nothing to gain by this vote. I am not going to go out to Las Vegas and gamble. I am not going to go to a casino in Nebraska and gamble. I have not gone across the river into Iowa to gamble. But as a legislator whose responsibility is to do what I think is in the best interest of the public overall, I'm doing as I've said I intend to do. Mr. President, I would like to withdraw that motion.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn, Senator Chambers. Senator Don Pederson...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...on the Bromm amendment.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...members of the Legislature, I appreciate the comments of Senator Chambers. And by and large, he has traveled the same path that I traveled. Because as I told you, I did not vote on the first proposal. I didn't vote when we were on General File in this bill. And I didn't vote for many of the same reasons that Senator Chambers alluded to. I was concerned about the issue of gambling per se. And as I said, I am not a gambler. I was just in Las Vegas. I did not put one quarter in a machine. So that's not the issue, as far as I'm concerned. The issue, as far as I am concerned, is that I think that it's incumbent on this Legislature to act like a Legislature. We need to come forth with our legislation to give the people an opportunity to vote on what we consider to be the best of measures that we've discussed and that we have come to as far as what should be presented to the public. If we let an initiative petition make that determination, in many ways I'd say that that initiative petition gained its impetus from the fact that people were going around with signs saying, save us on taxes, sign here. And things...that's not even the issue. The issue is one of whether or not we should have responsible legislation. And I think despite what Senator Erdman says, I think it's our responsibility not to view this in our personal light, but to view it in our responsibility as a legislator. We