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LR 11

bill.

SENATOR VRTISKA PRESIDING

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The fair question to everybody who is supporting these amendments is, will you vote for the bill if the amendment is attached? So I hope that we're politically savvy to the nuances of what's maybe going on here this afternoon. Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Next speaker, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska, members of the Legislature. I am pleased that Senator Bromm pulled his amendment. It appeared to me that we had one that was limiting and one that was absolutely allowing anything. And it looked to me like they were at opposites of one another. And then looking at Senator Pederson's amendment, it would seem to me if you want to really open things up, why would you go beyond the first sentence? "Nothing in the Constitution of Nebraska shall prohibit the Legislature from authorizing and regulating games of chance" period. And it would seem to me that that...if that's what you want to do, that that could be accomplished. However, of all the states, looking around, of their gambling proposals, it would appear to me that South Dakota, who have slot machines anywhere and everywhere, is the most distasteful of all of those. But when I started in this discussion a couple of weeks ago, with the introduction of LR 11CA, I still came up with the question about, where is the money and where is it going? And we have nothing that we're talking about, back then, today, that describes that. And if we don't have some idea of why we're doing this, it seems to me that to even discuss it is somewhat foolishness. We're in the worst budget battle that this state has ever experienced. That is certainly what people tell me. It's certainly, from what I've read and what I've studied, to be true. It also would appear that this could be a long-term situation. I was reading an article today that said that this could be eight years before we return even back to