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FLOOR DEBATE

April 2, 2003            LR 11

CLERK: AM1146, Senator. (Legislative Journal page 1137.)

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: AM1146. Substitute AM1146. And candidly, AM1146 embodies both what I was proposing and what Senator Bromm was proposing,...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Without...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...and we'll put it in one bill.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Without objection, seeing none,...

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Pederson and Bromm...

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...so ordered.

CLERK: ...would move to amend with AM1146.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska and members of the body. The purpose in making this kind of an amendment and tying them together is that this does tie together the issues that both Senator Bromm and I see in connection with this. Candidly, I could never see that the state was going to be a place that would ever use eight casinos. We don't have an increasing population. And so for that reason, it seems that four casinos is more of a reasonable approach to the state of Nebraska and its demographics. I have always believed, quite honestly, that Omaha needs a destination casino for its entire new complex of Convention and Visitors Bureau. And I think that would be a thing that would complete and make it viable for Omaha. It's not as if Omahans are not engaged in casino gambling, because they all go across the river right now. But there's no reason to require that they go across the river. It seems more reasonable that there would be an opportunity for these folks to have the ability to have that facility right in the same location as where they're coming for their conventions and that sort of thing. Secondly, I thought that treating our entire state with the opportunity to engage in some of the