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LR 11

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You did it...oh, excuse me. Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, you did it to me again, Senator Redfield. You made me punch on my light. Do you remember the handout I sent out to you about the gambling issues that were on the ballot in Iowa? And that wasn't lawmakers deciding whether they wanted to keep gambling, that was the people, and it was overwhelming. And just to reiterate for you, there wasn't a one that didn't pass by a fairly substantial margin. But right across the river in Pottawattamie County, 20,074 people voted yes; 5,190 people voted no. And it's that way all across Iowa. They have 13 casinos or riverboats in Iowa, and they were very strong margins over there. I do know what you're saying because I do know in South Dakota where they, I think foolishly, put those proceeds into their regular general funded budget. And people did not like the...what, and I can't even explain what they are, but they're VLDs or something like that, VLTs. They are a very fast-moving kind of gaming machine which are apparently very addictive, and the people of South Dakota didn't think they wanted them any longer. But the truth of the matter was, they were going to have to probably come up with an income tax, which they don't presently have at the present, if they wanted to get rid of it. And so guess how it turned out? They didn't actually get rid of it. I...but it was a close, a fairly close margin at that, even though they were going to have to enact an income tax which they've never had. So I think you have to be careful about what you do with the proceeds and you have to make sure they don't get written into your general operating budget, so that you can never get out of it no matter what. But by and large, every poll I've seen in Nebraska has shown that this is what the people want to do. They want the right to vote on it. And if we don't put something that's sensible and well-rounded on the ballot, we will get something that is insensible and not well-rounded. And I think it is our responsibility, it's already been said several here...several times here today that we need to do that. In connection with Senator Janssen's amendment, I think that you