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FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2003            LR 11

item on the agenda, LR 11CA. Just where we were yesterday, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 11CA was discussed on Select File yesterday. A series of amendments were considered. I do have an amendment to the resolution. Mr. President, Senator Louden would move to amend the resolution. (AM1122, Legislative Journal page 1141.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Louden, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I'm introducing this amendment, AM1122, to direct facilities to all parts of the state. All areas of the state must be included when an amendment to the constitution is being considered. This is something that will affect us all, so I feel that all areas needed to be included. And a gambling amendment isn't just about Omaha or the racetracks or Native American lands. The entire state must be considered. If a number is being considered for a maximum, they should be spread out evenly throughout the state, and the Mountain time zone would be a precise area that would cover the western end of the state. Gambling should be considered as a business, and designated areas and boundaries should be decided by a business-type formula. By including three in the Mountain time zone, this would allow one on I-80, somewhere east of the I-76/I-80 junction, it would allow one in the northwest Pine Ridge area, and allow for one to be decided at a future date by the market itself and how the demographics progress from the front range area of Colorado and Wyoming. In the Mountain time zone, gambling will be considered as an opportunity to attract out-of-state tourism. A casino in northwest Nebraska will no doubt be promoted as a destination point to the area. Unlike the riverboat casinos and casinos in metropolitan areas that cater to serious gambling, casinos in the Mountain time zone will be geared more for out-of-state clientele and tourism. This is a promotion type area that I think we can use in the western end of the state. Tourism is probably something that's going to help us in the future. We're looking at a considerable population area on the front range of Colorado. We're sixty