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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR ERDMAN:     So you're saying that I should vote against this amendment if I'm opposed to gambling?

SENATOR JANSSEN:    Well, Senator Erdman, you have never followed the way I told you to vote anyway, so I doubt very much whether that would happen.    (Laughter)

SENATOR ERDMAN:    Thank you, Senator Janssen, point well made. I think it's interesting what we've rushed to do here and I'm going to actually vote against Senator Janssen's amendment in hopes of one or two things happening--actually, the state generating revenue in the event that this does become law in Nebraska, but also because, as he said, I generally don't follow his support. The argument that comes up again is, and the reason why this amendment is up here to clarify the language that we supposedly were trying to clarify yesterday, was in the event that there's competing interests, one petition that was put out by the voters or by the citizens at large and then a proposal that might be put out by the Legislature if there is competing provisions in the law, they look at whichever provision had the most votes to determine what the law of the state should be. I'm not sure that the argument that continues to come up, that the petition might be worse than what we can propose, is a valid one at this time, and I'll tell you why. The petition that we had before that everyone is concerned about is that somehow the Legislature and the state as a whole will be left out of the revenue process if the petitioners put something on the ballot or if we put something on the ballot, and the reason why I think that's a false argument is because the court is going to rule that you've got to put one issue before the voters and what the petitioners are going to continually try and do, and they might figure this out but I have a hard time believing that they will, is that they're going to figure out a way to bypass the revenue stream to the state because they're only going to be able to ask one question and that is, should we expand gambling or not? So, from that standpoint, I think that, regardless of whether we put something out there or the voters put something out there, that argument doesn't hold a lot of weight because I think it's still got to come back to the Legislature for enabling legislation. I might be wrong. but I