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come. I have always been one of those who has taken what I call a defensive posture in the body when it comes to gambling, and I have said I'm not for it, I'm not interested in it, I don't want it, we don't have it, so whatever, and that's not irresponsible. I guess I'll take a moment to explain. You know, I think sometimes outside the body people don't understand you can play defense a number of ways. You can talk and vote no. You can not talk and vote no. You can not talk, not vote, not be present and you're voting no, because it takes offense to do something here. So what I'm doing today is changing from the defense to the offense, and I'll tell you why. Over time, people keep saying to me, we don't want gambling, and I have been known to say I'm not in favor of gambling, I don't want gambling. I have twice this morning reread the Hans Christian Andersen story, The Emperor's New Clothes. If you haven't...I'd love to have the time to read it. It's a delightful little story. I think you all recall the punch line. We have gambling in Nebraska. I don't understand why we don't think we have gambling in Nebraska. I don't know what I think I'm preventing. In the 1920s, we started parimutuel horse racing. In 1935, the people voted on it and they approved it. Ak-Sar-Ben opened in 1920. Ag Park began horse racing in Columbus in 1942; horse racing in Lincoln at the State Fair Park in 1950s; Fonner Park opened in 1954. We have been gambling at those sites ever since they opened. We have gambling in Nebraska. During the 1950s and sixties, Nebraska had a regional monopoly on parimutuel horse racing and the gambling associated with it. It was considered to be a huge tourist attraction in Nebraska. At its peak in 1984, Ak-Sar-Ben was one of the ten largest racetracks in the United States. There was over \$250 million wagered there each year, and \$12 million flowed to the coffers of the state of Nebraska and we profited in our General Fund from gambling revenues. Now I'm the one, I admit, I'm the one who didn't have it in focus. In 2002, there were \$6.3 million gambled at Columbus; \$18.9 million gambled at Lincoln at the State Fair Park; \$19.4 million gambled at Grand Island at Fonner; \$3.7 million wagered at Atokad Park in South Sioux City, simulcasting only; and \$65 million at Horsemen's Park in Omaha, simulcasting only. That's a total of \$113 million wagered and gambled in Nebraska, and we don't have gambling? Then there's keno. You know, one of the interesting things when you review