

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 4, 2004 LR 14

twenty-two people in Nebraska sent me down here to express their will. It's called representative government. It's called a republican form of government. This is supposed to be a republic. People who say let the people speak, let them vote on it, are trying to evade their responsibility, and that's what's being asked of you. The petitions I'll address when I get my light on again. But ask yourself, can I countenance this as a matter of conscience?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR TYSON: I think you cannot. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, to a surprise to all of you, I'm sure, I'm going to oppose this. Senator Janssen, I think South Dakota has got some great things. They've got Mount Rushmore. They probably have a state fair. They probably have some exciting things, so just for the record. I also would like to say that the petition that is out there is a similar situation we had last year, and the idea seems to be that if we don't act we're going to lose control. If we don't act...if we do act we're going to lose control, because here's why. If we pass this, this goes on the ballot and by some amazing situation that I don't foresee, but say it would happen that the voters would approve a constitutional amendment in this regard, it would come to the Legislature. And if you follow what's gone on in other states with those individuals who campaign for office and who supports them and who gets elected, there are millions and millions of dollars aside for those individuals to use to run for office for a specific reason, and realistically one of them would be that I would be there to vote for statutory changes to the way the casino laws are written in the state of Nebraska for the benefit of whoever, and it will be a circus. So you can't say that we're going to have control, because I'm not convinced we would anyways. We do have control at this time. The issue of the petition is an interesting one and let me say this. I don't begrudge anyone from bringing a petition for the people of the state of Nebraska to vote on. I think that's fair. I think