

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

February 4, 2004 LR 14

of Nebraska shall be construed to prohibit, evidently people believe that not prohibiting is permitting. And I would offer to you that that is not so. Up to eight; I would offer to you that up to eight but not including eight is seven. You can go to seven, but you can't go to eight and include eight in the process. The Legislature may provide for the operation, regulation, and taxation of casino gambling at eight casino locations. Here again, that is permissive. I do not follow the argument that was made that it would automatically lead to eight locations. I do believe that Senator Schimek did say one thing that I believe to be very, very true. To have a successful casino, you have to have population, you have to have disposable income, that I spoke of earlier. And the 1,721,000 or 1,722,000 people that are in Nebraska--and I think we're only talking about Nebraskans; to think that somebody is going to come across the border I don't think is a viable choice. They don't go across the border into Wagner, South Dakota. Well, I did, but I was turkey hunting. And the Indian casino in Wagner is probably totally half the size of this Chamber. There are very, very successful casinos back east. One of them in Connecticut, I understand, is one of the most successful anywhere in the world, Pequot or some tribe. They have the population. Nebraska doesn't. One thing we do have, and we can, by passing this constitutional amendment on to the voters, we can really strike a blow for crime. From the Omaha World-Herald, not the one that's been passed around: In South Dakota, the annual number of felony cases filed in Lawrence County, Deadwood, increased by about 70 percent since the introduction of casino gambling in Deadwood, South Dakota. The number of police calls in Black Hawk, Colorado--I remember Black Hawk, Colorado from the sixties--increased from 25 a year--I'm surprised it was that many--to...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: ...between 15,000 and 20,000 annually after their introduction. In Central City, Colorado, the number of arrests increased by 275 percent the year after casinos arrived. In Cripple Creek, Colorado, serious crime increased by 287 percent in the first three years. We can strike a blow for crime; not against it, for it. I did have passed out to you a