

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

February 5, 2004 LR 14

fact situation we have in Nebraska today where Iowa casinos and other casinos are within easy access of most of our population. So having talked a little bit about that, I would invite others to speak and await the arrival of some of our colleagues who have not been able to make it due to the snowfall. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on FA1450, which is an amendment to the Schimek amendment, AM1401 (sic). Open for discussion on the Beutler amendment, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I'd like to follow up a little bit on what Senator Beutler was just talking about. And, you know, I'm probably not very good with New Year's resolutions. I made a resolution this year that I wasn't going to inundate you with paper on this issue. And I kept to it yesterday but today I've fallen. And you are now getting a peach-colored sheet and a yellow sheet on your desk. And they're actually from a couple of years ago, but I think that it's necessary for us to remember what's going on out there in the lobby. You know, I'm astounded. We got people out there in the lobby this year who are lobbying against the Legislature doing anything. And I thought that they probably would be quiet this year because they've got their own proposal on the ballot, right? So I thought it would be a little bit disingenuous of them to come and lobby us about what we were trying to do in here. And I want to remind you that things are not always what they seem. I don't know if you remember the World-Herald story of a couple years ago, but it turned out that Iowa gambling interests, not antigambling Nebraskans, were the key financial backers between the...or behind the lobby group called Nebraskans Against Expanded Gambling. I think you really have to examine what's going on out there in the lobby and you have to ask yourself if you are in here to represent your constituents or the Iowa casinos and all the other interests that are out there. I would simply like to say I promise I won't hand out any more handouts on this issue, but I did want to call our attention to the fact that that kind of lobbying is going on out there and I think we ought to be here. We've spent four years on this issue. We ought to be able to make up our minds on it. And I agree with Senator Beutler, there are people