

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2004 LR 14

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Mr. Clerk, we'll proceed then. We have a pending floor amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Smith offers FA1469.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Smith, I believe you have opened on this amendment. I would give you a brief opportunity to explain the amendment once again for the benefit of the floor if you would like.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. The floor amendment that I offered, FA1469, simply strikes the "eight," inserts "one" casino for the voters to consider.

SPEAKER BROMM: And your light is next, Senator Smith, if you'd like to continue.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I believe that obviously the amendment is very straightforward. It is my intent to focus the debate on what the ballot measure would propose, in a more simple form. And it speaks to the larger issue of legislative authority within that parameter, legislative authority according to the will of the voters. And obviously, my perspective over the last several years has been that of not bringing expanded gambling to Nebraska. We have enough. I want to have a good debate on this, the second round of an issue that I believe is very important to the future of Nebraska and what Nebraskans want or don't want. And when we put something on the ballot, and especially when there are other measures likely to reach the ballot as well, I want this to be something that's simple and understandable. Someone asked me if I was automatically going to support LR 14CA if this amendment is adopted. I have not made that commitment. And I want that to be very clear. It is something that I think is a good debating tool here for the purposes of understanding the issue. And I want us to perhaps look at the assumption that LR 14CA may reach the ballot, and may even be adopted by the voters. And I hear from within this institution and from across Nebraska that they...or I should say we Nebraskans don't want to be like South Dakota, with a casino on almost every corner. Every convenience store, every liquor establishment is a casino in