

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

February 19, 2004 LR 14

of casinos, I don't care if it's 1 or 8 or 18 or 180, first of all, you need a population base to support a casino, because not everybody gambles. Most people don't. That won't stop them from voting for it if it goes on the ballot. But a relatively small people are going to gamble, and those are the people of whom it was said that this is a voluntary tax paid for by the stupid. The cost of gambling, however, while incurred by a few, is borne by many. If we have a problem now with problem gamblers, and we do, and this comes from people who are willing to go over to Iowa,...

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: ...how much more problem are we going to have when they can stay at home and do it? And how do we regain that money? The simple answer is that we probably can never stay current. So I think what we ought to do is just go ahead and sell out. Make it a price tag, \$154 million in cash, no promises, no chips, nothing down the line, all cash in hand, and then enough to keep the problem gamblers' heads above water and be able to also help cure them of their depression, suicidal tendencies, and bankruptcies. Thank you, Mr. Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Smith, followed by Senators Landis, Brashear, Beutler, Janssen, Hartnett, Aguilar, Combs, and Bromm. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Tyson pointed out my inability to spell "none." It certainly was my intent to put "one" in. Actually, I did find a grammatical error, and I should have stricken the "s" off of "locations," since FA1469 moves from eight casinos to one casino location, singular instead of plural. So if I need to, I will certainly make that correction. We started talking about the economy, and Senator Johnson yielded me time to talk about the economic impact and so forth, and I want to take that one step further and elaborate on what I was saying, in that destination casino gambling is far different than a community such as those across Iowa or South Dakota, both states that I would believe