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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. The discussion that we're having I believe is a healthy one. Sometimes we get off on some tangents perhaps, but certainly they're issues of the day that I think may need some discussing. But Senator Landis perhaps very politely scolded me for even thinking of providing an amendment, that I would argue, had I not provided the amendment, I'm not sure we would have any discussion on LR 14CA for second round. And I believe that it's healthy to have a discussion. And we tell the public we have three rounds of debate, and I think that this is healthy. But it hadn't crossed my mind earlier, and I'm not impugning the integrity of those involved in current gambling in Nebraska, but it hadn't occurred to me that a kidnapper is generous for giving a kid some candy. Now, there was some intent behind that to lure someone in, but certainly the kidnapper is not generous for giving a child some candy because the kid likes candy. And I think we need to look at the bigger picture of the whole scheme of why they provide cheap meals at a casino, but how interesting it is that I've found at meetings that an athletic club admission tends to be more expensive. Wonder why that is. Probably because athletic clubs take someone away from the slot machines during their stay at a destination resort casino perhaps. But let's look at what we as a state are doing in creating a new lobbying group. Now, certainly everyone has the right to lobby. They can associate themselves with whomever they choose. But let's look at the way we are creating new programs, new lobbying. And I'll admit it, I have an event...or I have an amendment to give more funding to compulsive gambling efforts, the prevention of compulsive gambling efforts, not compulsory gambling efforts, but compulsive gambling efforts. That is...if it's not creating a new program, it's certainly expanding an existing one. But look what we created when we created the lottery. We created a new agency within an agency that has a director that somehow saw fit to travel to Greece, of all places, to learn about new technology for the program of the lottery. And I'll give the director of the agency the benefit of the doubt that he truly did forget to reimburse the state \$5,000 for his wife's travel to Greece. I'll guarantee you that conference didn't keep money in Nebraska by sending someone overseas, of all places, for some training. So this isn't about