

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

February 19, 2004 LR 14

country, it's around 70 percent. In the Winnebago reservation now, and I don't have this in writing, but I've been told that their employment...unemployment rate now is about 5 percent. They've been able to do amazing things with the money. Now not all tribes have been as successful. Not all...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...tribes have invested their monies as wisely. But I've got tons of material on this issue, and I can tell you that most of these reservations are in areas that are nonproductive. They're isolated. They don't have resources, economic development. Any kind of economic development ever tried has not been good. So I've become convinced that this is the answer for some tribes, at least. And regarding the statements that there were close to half of the people who voted for this, Senator Smith, there would have been more people who would have voted for your amendment if we knew that we wouldn't, in the long run, lose more votes than we gained. It's a numbers game is what it is. And we can't just willy-nilly...

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're now on your time, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I'm sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're now on your time. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: We can't just willy-nilly adopt amendments if we don't have vote counts. And so I'm still not opposed to lowering the number here. I would like it, but if we're going to do it, I'm not going to do it so that then the bill dies, which, if you look at this list of the people who voted, there is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 of those 19 votes that have never voted for any kind of amendment or bill on this floor, at least to my knowledge. There are several others on this list who've probably voted for maybe one or two things. So I don't think getting their votes on this amendment is going to bring them