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FLOOR DEBATE

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it. We don't need gambling dollars to complicate the economy in Nebraska. Now we've shoved to the side the issue yesterday of one casino, perhaps being in Omaha. That was certainly left for discussion, should it have been adopted. But it seems now that the will of the body is eight. Some people may want eight because it will fail; some people may want eight because they think it will pass. I'm not quite sure. I've been trying to gauge the members here to fashion the issue into a very understandable decision for the voters to make, come November, should they have that opportunity. But when we look at what we're facing with the petitions, and I don't even think it's being idealistic to say that when trash makes it to the ballot it's easy to throw the trash out, certainly easier than reluctantly supporting something on the ballot because we feel threatened by trash. And if the mayor of Kimball wants gambling money for his city, certainly we can reflect that in the state aid formula, similar to the situation or similar to our policy with school districts that the more someone raises on the local level the less state aid they get, given the needs of the district. I would speculate that if the Legislature took the position of, okay, if you're going to raise the money locally through gambling, don't expect as much state aid, we might get the attention of city leaders across the state. Certainly holding some of the state aid back due to budgetary reasons got a lot of the attention of local governments, be they city or county. And I wouldn't underestimate the power of, and/or the desire of, this body to come out against an issue that is bad for the people of Nebraska. They've done it before. I wasn't here when Initiatives 413 and 414 were circulated or were voted on, actually, but I saw forces around the state mobilize to say that a ballot measure that said we're going to limit property taxes should fail. And the other one I believe that said education is a paramount duty of the state, I saw folks who might have believed that but still came out against putting it into the constitution, and it was defeated soundly. If I counted up the number of people in this body who said that I don't think casino gambling is a good thing, even though they might vote to put LR 14CA on the ballot, and those who feel the same but are...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.