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FLOOR DEBATE

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amendment offered by Senator Schimek, FA1478 to AM2670, is germane.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I would move to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, as you know, every member gets to speak one time. You may open on your motion to overrule.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I want to take the opportunity, I guess, to paint the perspective of my perspective, paint that picture, and let you as colleagues know that the first I've seen of this amendment was this morning, so if there was a deal struck, certainly I wasn't a part of it. And I don't believe that I'm this privileged person who should be a part of every deal that's ever made on this issue, because I am a bit difficult to win over on the issue. But please don't think that this was some deal that was presented long ago, other than the fact that I presented...I took the risk of presenting two different opportunities to address the situation with these issues in the current amendment, the Schimek amendment. Those could have been adopted last week. So if time is of the essence, certainly that was squandered time last week where we spent a lot of time debating the number of issues...the number of casinos, when I proposed that it be one, even though zero is my optimal number; and the other one of the local county vote. That could have been amended, had Senator Schimek not liked the language. Now, when I raised the local vote issue on General File, she didn't like the language. I was comfortable with the language. And then it never came up again until Select File, this second round. So I'm a bit perplexed, and a little bit taken aback that I was accused of not going to Senator Schimek on her bill, on an issue that I raised on General File, and certainly, again, took the risk of presenting the amendment on Select File, in giving the opportunity for the bill's sponsors to come up with a better bill, when I don't like the concept of Nebraska opening up its state boundaries to casino gambling and expanding the gambling that we already have with the lottery, with charitable gaming, whether it's keno, pickle cards, bingo, or horse racing. And the fact of the matter is, yes, we are using some time here, but this is an important issue. And I