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FLOOR DEBATE

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inappropriate to say or, you know, say let's do it now when the opportunity was last week. And believe me, I ran the risk of my amendments getting adopted to make the bill a better bill, but I think that was acting in good faith. Would I rather see one casino than eight? Absolutely. My preference, as I've stated earlier, is zero, but my concern is I don't want to see this proliferation across the state and the fewer casinos the better. That's why I filed the amendment of one last week. It was tempting to do two or three. Or, if I really wanted to be the obstructionist, I could have stricken "eight," inserted "seven," and had a vote on that; stricken "eight" again, insert "six," on down the line to zero. But I didn't do that. I think I put some amendments on here that really talked about the policy discussions. Certainly I did it on General File, when Senator Beutler cried foul. And I think that this is very relevant to the process and certainly relevant to the people's business of what do we end up with here with policy that we're asking the people to vote on. In the past, I've said constitutional language maybe should be vague, and then I read through the state constitution more and it's far from vague in many, many, many cases. And we hear the argument of, well, let's let the people vote. There are some issues out there that I would love for the people to vote on that can't seem to make their way through this body, because there are 33 votes required...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...to cease debate. Now, the argument for whether we should have 33 votes to cease debate, or 30, that is consistent with suspending the rules, that's a debate for another time. I think we need to have that at a very relevant time. But I keep going through and I keep getting more and more research presented to me, and I keep going back. I even came across a resolution by economists in Nebraska saying...economists who have studied the issue far more than the Vegas lobbyists, far more, I would argue, than anyone in this building, and they have said that the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. And once we bring casinos to Nebraska, I would argue, as South Dakota showed, even though they're addicted to gambling and addicted to what funds seem to be there, they can't say no.