

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

March 8, 2004

LR 14

problems there are, said Sol Boxenbaum of Viva Consulting, a treatment service in Montreal. That's why we have such a problem in Quebec. The machines are accessible on every street corner and in every neighborhood. I challenge you that if we do not have our initiative on the ballot that these other initiatives are going to give us just that. That's what's laying there right now. That's what went to the Supreme Court last year which, but for a glitch of fate, would have been on the ballot--machines in every neighborhood. I had a breakfast briefing this morning in Crete with constituents. They support what we're doing in here today, and that is getting the Legislature to have a choice for them on the ballot, as opposed to what the other six or seven or however many are going to come out in the final wash. They want to be able to vote on it. Secondly, what Senator Janssen passed out, the KM3 News "Poll Alert: Do you believe that Nebraskans should have the right to vote whether to allow casino gambling in the state or not?" And this was all, and men, women, all age groups, and from all three congressional districts. All of that data is all in the nineties as to, yes, we should have a chance to vote on it, over 90 percent. And as Senator Friend referenced and as I have referenced before, that is the other house of the Legislature that would like a chance to vote. On an issue like this, I'm sure that there are those of us who feel that they're correct in being paternalistic; don't give it to them. I say the people are out there that want the chance to vote on it, and we have a mandate from them to give them that opportunity, and certainly we should take that opportunity to give them the choice to vote. I personally don't want video terminal machines all over. I think that's bad. It's called the crack cocaine of gambling, and I have to agree that is bad. But what are we going to have if we don't have the Legislature in control and we don't have Senator Schimek's bill here, which calls for two casinos? And again, I thank also the people that worked together on this, and it's not just this year; it's the years that have gone into this, and years of compromise. And I thank them for their hard work...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...on it. I think that this is what the people