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FLOOR DEBATE

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like Council Bluffs. That is astonishing. It's surprising. Wow! Let the people vote. Let the people vote. Let's establish a sophisticated formula of local entities voting for Wal-Mart, because certain people, in this body specifically, go to great lengths to keep Wal-Mart out of a...out of a community because it takes money out of the community, but let the people vote on casinos. At the end of this discussion, at the end of my legislative career, I will ask myself the question, did I do what I could to keep casinos out of Nebraska? Because the information that I had specifically, repeatedly, obviously points out that casinos drain an economy, whether it's from the mom and pop restaurant, whether it's from the gift shop. Why did a business community, almost the closest to Council Bluffs, you know, that role model community, the business community of the Old Market in Omaha took a vote and said we don't want casinos on this side of the river, because it just brings it closer to them. They have good reason and they stare those bright lights in the face all the time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: But, no, let's be like Council Bluffs. Out in western Nebraska, we can do better. And I believe that the west side, the west bank of the Missouri River, with some pretty sophisticated businesses, true economic development that has their executives in Omaha, not Las Vegas, their executives are in Omaha. Their highest paid employees across the board are in Omaha, not Vegas. Perhaps the rest of Nebraska doesn't want to be like Council Bluffs. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Cunningham, followed by Senator Mines, Schrock, Foley, Brown, and others.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? All...Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, I'd like a ruling from the Chair on full