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LR 11

or less, maybe. That's a stretch that I've heard from the Chairman of the General Affairs Committee. But ironically what I'm not hearing on this floor are the members of the Legislature, who are in the area that some of our colleagues are targeting for a casino, up championing this idea. Why do you think that is? I don't know. I haven't heard anybody really get up and give a real "passioned" speech about why we need casinos in Nebraska from the Omaha area. And I see Senator Mines has his light on, so maybe he's going to give us that speech. But it appears that we want casinos, just not in our own area, and so if we can lead the charge from another community for Omaha, then good for us. And so I look around at some of my Omaha colleagues and think about that. The other thing that I wonder is, if it's truly a reality that a representative form of government is what the people want we give them, why are we even here? Why don't we just take public opinion polls on every issue in the state of Nebraska, and whatever they think, that will be the law? Isn't that...wouldn't that be the truest form of that idea? I don't know about you, but a lot of us have come to this legislative body and have sat through committee hearings and have listened to information, and most of the time, most of the time the information that we receive affects the decisions that we make. Now I've served on the General Affairs Committee. This is my fourth year and the first two years it was a comfy place to be because I had allies on the committee. Most casino ideas or expanded gambling issues were divided 4 to 4. I show up in January of 2003, and Senator Cunningham has been on the committee. He's also the Vice Chair and so I don't now if he had a part in this either, but the skids were greased to get any proposal onto the floor that was wanted to be able to discuss this. So what was once a 4 to 4 committee, became a 5-2, 6-2, 7 to 1 committee, me being the lone voice in the wilderness again. And through this whole process I have explained to Senator Schimek, Senator Janssen, and others that I'm going to explain to you what you're doing wrong. Ironically, we stood at this point last year and I went over to Senator Schimek and I said, Senator Schimek, if you bring LR 11CA back from Final Reading you're making a huge mistake. The body brought it back from Final Reading, we didn't adopt the amendment, and here we are again. I think Senator Schimek...or Senator Smith is correct.