

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

April 7, 2004 LR 11

Iowa casinos include the racetracks that are allowed to have slot machines so they could compete. We have a very well-greased machine here, as Senator Smith said, and I agree with him. People, we are voting on two casinos. Let me remind you it's not two casinos, because what we are voting on is four, five or more casinos, because as soon as this would pass, if the people decide to pass it, my American Indian friends have the right to build on any reservation land they want. That will be a minimum, I'm sure, of at least two or three. It's automatic, people, as soon as we authorize any kind of gaming of this, that Native Americans, which I choose to call the American Indians, can build on any of their land where they want to. And I'm sure that we will let them do that, but we won't let them compete because we have more money on the white man's side and we'll be...build bigger and better. I would venture to say, people, this handout that we have here on the floor was paid for by a casino in Las Vegas. That is nothing compared to the money they will spend to get this passed if we put it on the ballot. And with that kind of money, what kind of competition would our American Indian friends have anyway? And it still leaves 4,000-some jobs and racetracks in a quandary about how they're going to be able to compete and survive. The horse tracks a few years ago were hurting quite badly, and not just the tracks. I'm talking about the horsemen, the people who own the horses, the people who train the horses, the people who work with them. They bonded...they mortgaged themselves way deeper than money they had to build a place in Omaha called Horsemen's Park. It's a class act. Now Horsemen's Park does not have a whole lot of live racing yet, but it has enough live racing that it has kept the horse racing industry afloat. And it helps them tremendously, and they are starting to come back up a little bit. All they want to do, people, is make a living. All they want to do is compete. And I don't understand my rural colleagues not wanting to...that is a rural instance, as I said before, why you wouldn't want to support them and you would support this over them. Do you realize, the way I see it, that, you know, the rural people are getting the bones and the people in Omaha where I live are getting steak. Do you realize what this is going to do to the ballot if we do put it on there?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.