

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

April 7, 2004

LR 11

that. So I guess I won't speak a lot of times, but I'm going to just lay out a little bit where I'm coming from. Last night I heard Senator Bromm, a person that I respect a lot, say, stick with your convictions and I think that's good advice. My convictions are that I cannot support expanded gambling. I started keeping a file on gambling publications, or some of the articles that different publications comes out concerning gambling on both sides about three years ago. It's getting to be a pretty fat file. And as I continue to look at all the articles written and all the facts and figures that come out, and I know you can prove anything by statistics if you want to, I've been more convinced all the time that expanded gambling is not the best for Nebraska. Maybe I run in different circles than others, but I've had many more people tell me that, please, don't expand gambling than those that say, please, let us vote. What I find kind of interesting is as I listen to the debate on the floor, I don't think I've heard one senator here say that I'm a gambler, I love to gamble, and I make a lot of money at gambling. Almost everyone says, I do not gamble, I do not believe in gambling, but let the people decide. And I hear so many quotes of let us vote on it because I want to vote no. If that's the case, if everybody wants to vote no, let's just stop it right now and not have to go to that extent. We're...and talk about extended debate, that's all this year has been. Yesterday we talked about ethanol, and I was thinking about here's ethanol that is to me, I know it maybe not be to Senator Chambers, but it's a plus, plus all over. And when you come to gambling, I asked somebody what the statistics were for the percentage that become problem gamblers, and I was told it was 7 percent of the population. So I'm not going to say that because that seems to be way too high. Say 5 percent of the population, so say it's 5 percent of those gambling. If 5 percent of the cars that burn ethanol were going to have a wreck and if we set aside money to fix their cars for them, we'd outlaw that so fast that it would be pitiful. And here we are, when we know that families and situations with the compulsive gambling, it's a wreck. It's a wreck for families. I have had many people come up to me and say this is what happened to somebody that I know, an acquaintance or a relative, that's got into trouble and having a divorce and the kids. It still goes back to greed. I mean you have to look at gambling as greed.