

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

April 7, 2004 LR 11

on the Janssen amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Kremer, I'd let you finish your thought if you want to real quick, and then I'm going to offer the rest of my time to Senator Smith if he wants it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: I'm sorry, yes. It was really not that important. I just remembered three years ago when you asked me to come into your office, and I have to say Senator Janssen and Senator Schimek have been very gracious because I've always said no and they've not really twisted my arm, but I remember, Senator Schimek, you said that you were really against gambling, that you were really doing it for the Native Americans on the reservations, and I think that was a goal that you were sincere about but I haven't heard much anymore from not just you, from anybody, that this is really to help economic development for our Native Americans. It's really expanded. We've expanded in even the scope of this gambling as well as trying to expand gambling. So it was not that important, so thank you for your time anyway.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, thank you, Senator Kremer, and I'll respond just a second and just say that originally when I started out on the whole Indian question, that was my major goal, and I really...it had taken me five long years to get to that position from 1993 when we, this Legislature actually passed the bill to give them the right to compact. But along the way, I became convinced that, one, there was a public demand, that not that that should always govern our actions; two, that we had a lot of revenue going across the river; three, there were a lot of people in this state gambling already; and, four, that most people look at it as recreation and it's not harmful to them, and even the people who treat problem gamblers will come to the General Affairs Committee and say, this is not going to increase gambling. It's already here because we have so many forms of gambling already. So I finally decided if we're going to do it, let us do it, have control over it, and keep it fairly restricted. So, Senator Smith, I didn't give you