

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

April 7, 2004      LR 11

in Kimball. I know they want to come talk about issues before the state. They are not coming about this one. Maybe it's because they recognize that none of these ideas are ever going to put anything out there to benefit them, or maybe they recognize that the issues that are being proposed or the ideas that are behind this aren't reality. So that's the second idea that we have to look at is what do we do with all this new money? We have economists that say it will be \$11 million total. Senator Beutler has studies that say it's in the 300 million dollar mark. Regardless of how much money it is, it's not going to lower anybody's taxes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR ERDMAN: So it does come back to the fact of whether or not this is good public policy and here's what I think is another issue that's driving this discussion. If we vote for casinos, it will help with our current shortfall. During the middle of the budget debate nobody stood up and said if we just had a casino we wouldn't be in this problem. Nobody did that. Because it's not true. It wouldn't happen and it wouldn't be here, but here's the other thing. Misconceived, lost in the discussion, Senator Dwite Pedersen hit it head on, while the Legislature may only authorize two facilities and there's a specific process to do that, a soon as this is ratified, if this is ratified by the public, the majority of those that vote for any one of these proposals, we've got casinos. We've got them on reservation land. There would be a value to doing it quickly because they would have an advantage. But don't think for a minute that if we, as a state, would authorize them in Omaha that those other guys across the border are going to play nicely and let us do it either. It's a cutthroat business and the money goes to Vegas. The money goes to Vegas and we get left holding the bag. So while 80 percent of the revenue comes to Nebraska, 80 percent of that revenue goes to Vegas, we're still left with the same 20 percent that's being collected. I don't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: ...know how that makes sense. I'm willing to