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FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2004 LR 11

also have a confirmation report, Mr. President, from the Health and Human Services. (Legislative Journal page 1548.)

Mr. President, the next motion I have with respect to LR 11CA and pursuant to the Speaker's directive is Senator Smith's. Senator Smith would move to return LR 11CA to Select File for a specific amendment, AM3602. (Legislative Journal page 1530.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on your motion to return LR 11CA to Select File for a specific amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is an amendment that would state the five-year renewal on the casino. It's not a new idea, either for the purposes of this discussion, but it's not a unique idea relative to other states, what other states do. I don't...I haven't quantified exactly what other states do. But this would allow the local community to renew the vote after five years. Now, if it's debatable on the number of years to renew, that is out of order, because we can only pull back for a specific amendment. But nonetheless, we do have, I believe, a responsibility to address the amendments that are on the computer. And certainly all those amendments, I hope, get full and fair debate. The tools available to the proponents of casinos are available to shut me off, at any given time, actually. As greased as this is, I'm surprised it hasn't come up yet. But there is the issue of the number of casinos, and renewal, that I believe is relevant to the discussion, and I think relevant to the people. When you look at what's at stake, it's important to look at all the information, not just these glittering reports from a Vegas casino. But let's look at the reality. Senator Beutler says it doesn't matter what's what, which is which, this bank, that bank of the river. And I've heard it stated that we want to keep people on the Nebraska side of the river from going to Council Bluffs, that role-model community east of Omaha. And we can bring conventions into that building, big building, big new building--some call it the Qwest Center; not everyone does. But those are out-of-state people coming, and they're going to go over to Council Bluffs. Now that the footbridge is in jeopardy, won't be as easy. But let's look at a real convention, a