

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

April 7, 2004 LR 11

it's the intent of the proponents to hand out some of the thickest handouts I've ever seen here in the body on the floor, expecting us, I guess, to read it and then take a vote after...well, as few speakers as possible. We can do better, because Nebraska is already better. The Omaha side of the river is already better than the Council Bluffs side of the river. And I challenge anyone to dispute that. Iowa, now the debate is more casinos than they already have.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Time.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: The speaking order is Preister, Redfield, Smith, Schimek, Brown, and others. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable President, members of the body. This morning I gambled as I drove I-80 to get down here. I gambled my life. That's as far as I gamble. I don't like gambling. I think it sends the wrong message. I think it says that life is a roll of the dice, life is whether Lady Luck smiles favorably upon you. It is not a good message to young people, who we want to apply themselves, to work diligently, and to do something with their education and to understand that they make their own luck by the sweat of their brow and the intensity that they put into what they do. And yet, this seems, on Final Reading, almost like deja vu, because I was here in 1993, and I may be the only one or two people in this body who voted against the lottery. And on Final Reading, just as we are here today, one of my last amendments was an amendment that said lottery tickets could not be sold wherever food stamps were redeemed. And I had an amendment to make all words in the statute that said "gaming" say "gambling," because I thought we should have truth in advertising. And having done that, one of the Sergeants at Arms at the time drew some doodles and drew a pile of manure with an obvious fragrance coming off it, and it said, by any other name it smells the same. And that was, and still remains, my attitude. I had opponents in my last two campaigns because of that stance. I didn't change that stance. But as I went door to door, I heard from a lot of people that they wanted a vote. That didn't fully sway my vote. But I have come to the