

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2004            LR 11

petitioners were standing outside of the grocery store and they were getting signatures, they were being paid to do it, and they were getting...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Time.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...lots of signatures,...

SENATOR HARTNETT: Time, Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...that's further convincing. I'm supporting LR 11CA. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Senator Hartnett, members of the body. I have remained quiet throughout the debate today. And I have strong feelings on the issue. But the thing that has drawn my attention today is the initiative. It appears that some people give lip service to the initiative in Nebraska. I call it lip service, because it seems like most of the discussion has centered upon how to thwart the initiative that may be appearing on the ballot, how to thwart the initiative that the people may choose to pull...put on the ballot. And I find that very interesting, because Senator Combs was talking about treating the people of Nebraska as if they were children and not giving them the right to vote, and yet we have people out there who are wanting to give them the right to vote, and we want to overcome that effort. So who is treating the people of Nebraska like children? Who is really saying, we know best what's best for you, I know better as a Legislature what you should have the right to vote on than you do yourself when you sign a petition? Now it's true that the initiatives that are out there, the petitions that they're circulating, are very self-serving. I would agree. And yet, what they are saying is, keep the money in Nebraska. And in essence, they do, because they keep them in the taverns where the slots would be, or the tracks, or the civic organizations, or the keno parlors, and all of the people that are behind those initiatives. That's money that stays in Nebraska. They are not telling a lie. Now the implication, of course, is that they will be saving taxes when this kind of an