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FLOOR DEBATE

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Mr. President. Mr. President, may I give the rest of my time to Senator Smith?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Hudkins, I appreciate that. I'm not sure everyone knows the details about this \$1 million fine for violating the regulations in Las Vegas. The charge involved rigged contests that gave a \$20,000 chip and a \$10,000 chip to high rollers who had already suffered big losses. That's one charge. Another one was what they called a bogus promotion, involving giving away a Mercedes-Benz to a preselected winner. Now, this is coming from the main proponent to LR 11CA, the main proponent. It goes on to say that this Las Vegas casino executive rigged the drawing with a cohort by hiding the winning ticket in his shirt sleeve, and pretended to draw it randomly from a batch of entries before announcing the winning ticket. And somehow they're a more pure lobbying effort, because there aren't as many of them. Perhaps they're unique for a reason. Now some of us here, we have varying opinions. And there are varying opinions behind the glass. I was accused of being a pawn of the lobby. I take issue with that. Just ask the lobby if I'm their pawn. But reality is that keno operators, they don't want to see casinos come to Nebraska, because slot machines are more interesting than keno. Racetracks, they have an opinion contrary to the current form of LR 11CA, for obvious reasons. The lottery, the current form of gambling in Nebraska, I'm sure they have an opinion. I'm not sure how they're registered. But there are a variety of opinions. And we want to do what a particular casino wants us to do, who rigged giving away a Mercedes-Benz. I'm not even sure how much those things cost. Probably more than my career salary in the Legislature, eight years times \$12,000 a year. I'm astonished that we would even consider that,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...that we would even consider paving the way, assuming that there are those who think that LR 11CA is better than other proposals that are out there. I mean, I've heard that on the floor today, that, oh, we can more closely regulate