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FLOOR DEBATE

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resolution for specific amendment. That would be to strike Section 2. (FA1705, Legislative Journal page 1654.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith, you're recognized to open on your motion to return.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I guess my intent is to leave at least one domino standing after we've heard the series of dominos roll over there. This issue certainly doesn't go away. Bear with me as I belabor the point just a little bit, but I hope not to yield back time to the Chair, because we know better than to do that. As I face the drive home tomorrow, April the 15, I know that...well, I don't know what time we'll be out of here, so I've had to do my taxes a little earlier than usual. Basically, I usually file those on the day that they're due. And so I was working on those here this afternoon and the Nebraska income tax, and I believe that there's a misconception. There's a misconception in the public that bringing casinos to Nebraska, closer to Nebraska, within Nebraska, than they currently are, would somehow solve a budget issue, a budget shortfall, revenue shortfall, if you will, whatever you want to call it. There are many Nebraskans who think that bringing casinos to Nebraska, especially the way we want to do it and not necessarily the way a petition might want to do it, would somehow solve the budget issue. Kudos to the proponents of LR 11CA for not even making that argument, because they know better. They know that Iowa has had tax increases in the past, quite recently in fact. South Dakota is the same. And they know that there are elected officials in Iowa and South Dakota, for example, who have said we wish we never would have brought casinos to Nebraska, especially slot machines. The very next issue we have after LR 11CA deals indirectly with gambling, but it's about the lottery. What have we seen the lottery do? Kind of wither away. We've tried propping it up here and there, but people voted for the lottery. They demanded that right to vote because they thought their taxes would go down. I've talked to many folks who have been disappointed in the lottery, have voted...they said they voted for it, but have been very disappointed because it hasn't brought about the tax relief that it promised, that so many people promised. Yeah, it probably got us some income tax revenue from some of the operators that