

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

April 14, 2004 LR 11

against this, this is no surprise, but I don't hold the proponents, the ones that want to sanction casinos in the state of Nebraska, I don't question their motives. I don't, and I think that's sometimes lost in this discussion. I think what Senator Janssen and Senator Schimek are doing they think is right for the state, sobeit. So I don't question that, but I do question what it is that we're trying to accomplish for the state. Senator Smith already pointed this out, and I pointed this out during our debate the other day, that there is a misconception. Senator Maxwell pointed it out again as well. People are going to vote yes. Well, why are they going to vote yes? Well, think back to last year when the petition was taken off the ballot by the courts. Why were people signing that? Because you had individuals with white T-shirts that said, spray-painted on their shirt, lower taxes, sign here. So people would sign the petition. That's how it got on there. That's the same misconception that people have--well, if we have casinos, it's going to lower our taxes. It's not. While we do have some problems here in the state of Nebraska, we as a state are not sanctioning those problems. We are not sanctioning casinos. We're not sanctioning the opportunity for individuals to take their entire paycheck and go to a casino. The hairdresser that Senator Brown goes to and gets a nice haircut from, I'm sure, will now be able to take the money that Senator Brown gives her and go waste it all at the casino. That's what we're asking the citizens of the state of Nebraska to sanction, to prey on our citizens that way. And if I can quote my good friend Senator Friend, it's unbelievable what we're doing, if you can believe it; it really is, that we as a state would sit here and say that this is a good idea for the state of Nebraska to go down. Now we have sat through this discussion for the last four years since I've been here. Fortunately for the proponents of this legislation, they've had all the time in the world to do that. But the reality comes back to this. If we put something on the ballot, does it guarantee us control? No, it does not. Senator Loudon has pointed out the petitions are already out there. There are some people that like those better than what the Legislature is doing. But let's think about this in a global sense. We have also not responded to every other petition that's out there. There's petitions out there that have a vote of the people before a tax increase happens. There