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FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004 LR 209

knows this. Senator Raikes knows it. Senator Raikes has voted accordingly. Some of us know that the fortune teller board, the fortune telling board, you all call it the Forecasting Board, we know that the fortune telling board is not 100 percent wrong. We know that there are serious problems of a fiscal nature awaiting us next session. We can put off addressing the problems, but we cannot hide from them. Most of us will be back here. We are going to be looking for money. Nothing should be taken off the table. I have been opposed to the lottery from its inception. I'm opposed to it now, but it is a political reality. The proceeds from the lottery constitute a political reality and a source of funds with which to address the state's fiscal problems. That is the reality whether we like it or not. One of the problems that will have to be addressed, in my opinion, is compulsive gambling. I have sense enough to know that not one of these proposals that I'm offering will result in the bill being returned. That's why I will not take any of them to a vote. I want the opportunity to explore each one of these ideas. It's impossible for me not to bleed a little bit into a broader discussion; namely, the unwisdom that LR 209CA...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...embraces. But just give a bit of consideration, if you can, to what I'm suggesting. By allocating this money in the constitution according to a rigid formula which the Legislature would not be free to violate, you are closing the door forever to the infusion into that Compulsive Gamblers Fund additional money which I know and everybody on this floor knows is going to be needed. Either we will put it from the General Fund, which I doubt, or we will ignore the problem as we have certain others. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I think Senator Chambers has fairly described the plan for the day. I thank him for the structured debate. I anticipate that it will be the introduction of four amendments, some colloquy about those, and a chance to, in fact, address the