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LS 744

the bridge because of cracks in the steel which meant another year of the bridge being closed and I sympathize with them. It has been rough on business. I am part owner of two truck stops in South Sioux City. I have been a member of the South Sioux City Chamber of Commerce for thirty years and business hasn't been all peaches and cream during the past three years in this particular area. But must we rely on gambling machines to save our business or to make our business survive? I had to make a tough decision about ten days ago of removing two of these video slot machines from one of our truck stops. I am positive that it cost our business some revenue, revenue that could be used to pay the light bill, the heat bill, telephone bill or to pay other bills but I feel that we must use our principles in making these decisions. The direction we need to take on video slots is to get out of the business entirely.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: Benefits to the state and to local government is peanuts compared to the total budget demands of these governments. It is not worth it. It is not worth it especially with all the problems it causes. The most notable problem is that people who can least afford this form of taxation provide the most income from it. Serious problems are inevitable if we do not ban video slots. It is time for the Legislature to show its backbone. I ask you this morning, where are our priorities? Where are our principles? Let's call a spade a spade and let's not do it on one of these video slot machines. I urge you to support the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am pleased that I placed my name on LB 744. I am happy to support the bill because I believe first of all it is morally right. I would call the attention of the members of this floor to a letter sent out by the Bishop of my church to each of you in this morning's mail in which he refers to a resolution passed at the Synod meeting of our church, held in Fremont on June 3, 4, and 5 in opposition to