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LR 289

trying to defeat it this time. Another point I would like to make with you, and this is a critical point I think, timing is of the essence here because if we don't do anything this year the issue really isn't ripe until the next time we have a ballot issue, which is several years down the line. This has to go on the ballot and all we are suggesting here is that let's do something about this issue. I mean we've got so many unresolved issues with our native people...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...here and this is one that we could actually give to the voters and say let's do something with this. It is conceivable...well, I think I...Mr. President, I think I will stop there. I don't want to get into the other issue yet because it may take too much time, and I'll...I'll complete my remarks later. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Further debate, Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. When I first read of LR 289CA, that the fact that Senator Schimek was going to introduce it, I said immediately I would support it. Normally, I don't vote for gambling bills. I do not vote for anything to enhance gambling because I think it's a pernicious...it creates a lot of problems perhaps that we don't really want. But, for me, this is a fairness issue. The state of Nebraska is in the gambling business. We have a lottery. I voted against the lottery on the floor, I voted against it on the ballot, but we have it because the people of the state of Nebraska voted for it. So, for me, this is a fairness issue that we should send this constitutional amendment to the ballot so the people of the state of Nebraska have the opportunity to vote on it and so...and also so the tribes can go out to the people, to the voters, and sell them on the idea of the fact that they do need to have some kind of mechanism to help them emerge the way they need to. Century and a half is it, maybe almost two centuries after we started settling in the western and the middle part of the United States of America, and the eastern too, the tribes are still struggling to become economically independent, for them to have their children