

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

March 1, 2000

LR 289

educated in the way that they should be. We brought a lot of things to them that devastated some of the tribes. We brought small pox to the Mandans and they were a...they were not nomadic tribe. Almost wiped them out. So we do have...I think we have an obligation to look at this from a fair point of view and allow this to be put on the ballot. One more vote, I do not understand why the committee didn't put it out, one more vote would have done that and then Senator Schimek wouldn't have to go through three rounds, two rounds if it had been on General File. But aside from that the other thing I want to remind you is that if you are getting letters, telephone calls, pressure from certain entities who are protecting their own little keno games or whatever, listen to them. That's what they're doing. This is a free enterprise society that we live in. The tribes have the privilege and the right to enter into that free enterprise system and we are not allowing them to when we don't let them have the casinos, or when we don't let them bring this to the ballot and let the citizens of Nebraska decide, as they did on the lottery. I just do not see the difference, so when I met with the tribes I had told them immediately because I had made up my mind ahead of time that I was going to go on the bill. I'm going to support it. I'm going to support this motion to bring it out of committee and then I'll support on General and...and on Select and on Final. But I want to remind you again, don't listen to those people from Council Bluffs. They don't want this. Iowa doesn't want this because it might compete with their...their...the people who go across the river, or who go up to South Dakota or whatever. Don't listen to them. Listen to yourselves and listen to your own conscience that will tell you that it is a fairness issue and that we need to treat the tribes in the same way that we treat any other issue and that we need to help them emerge from the darkness, if you want to call it that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: We talk all the time, the federal government, we, all of us talk about we must help the Indians be educated and take their place in society, and what do we do? We don't help them. Here's an opportunity and you can go home today and say I really did something good today. Thank you.