

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

February 19, 2002 LR 6

adamant, and this Legislature certainly was adamant, about no lotteries. Well, then initiatives started to appear on lotteries and some of them were in terrible, terrible form. And it eventually became a question of either we play Russian roulette with these initiatives and have some form of lotteries that would not represent the best public policy, or we seize the initiative and we enact a lottery that makes the most sense for the state of Nebraska, and that's ultimately what we did and thank God we did it in time. Because, if you will recall, there were some very distorted, warped, narrow views of how lotteries should be done in this state going around on public initiatives during that period of time. I see this whole cycle repeating itself now with respect to casinos, and either we will just allow it to happen, as Senator Landis suggests may be the best way, but I would argue that that's an abnegation of our responsibility to try to find the best public policy for the state of Nebraska in that area and, for that matter, any other area; that we ought not to say simply because we're philosophically opposed to something that we'll let it go by the by. Because if we say that our philosophic beliefs may be more offended by what haphazardly is approved by the voters in initiative than they would otherwise be if we took the initiative in the Legislature, if Senator Landis had his input on a solution and we brought forth to the people of the state a proposition that made good sense in terms of public policy, understanding...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...that we may not philosophically agree with what's happening. It is time for common sense to take over in this process. It is time for common sense to take over in this process and I don't know what exactly is the right form, but I hope we will debate it extensively. I hope we will reach a decision on some form and I hope we will present to the people of the state our version of how things should be, and I want to talk next time about how really bad a couple of these two initiatives are. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek, and this will be your third time.