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remainder of my time. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you've got about four minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, members of the Legislature, first of all, Senator Brashear, thank you very, very much. Whether one agrees or disagrees with ultimately what we do about casinos or don't do about casinos this year, I think in light of the discussion that's taken place everybody must agree that this is an important issue, this is a close issue, and this is an issue upon which reasonable people can be on both sides. And we will be...continue to seek to persuade one another on where the balance of things lie. I'm not going to go back into the details of the interdiction casino gambling amendment that is being reconsidered right now. I think we've had loads of discussion on it and I'm, frankly, afraid that we're pressing the limits of your patience and time on this particular issue. And so, as quickly as possible, I hope we can simply vote on the two or three things that are left before us and...and move on. But what I wanted to talk about a great deal today is an aspect of this that is totally unimportant for some of you, but to me it is, in fact, one of the key aspects of this. Probably the most important thing about this whole debate is that you have these initiatives out there, and they are going to go forward, at least one of them, for sure, will go forward. And the whole thing has to be considered in light of whether we want to put a proposition before the people in our form, or whether we just want to play Russian roulette and let them continue to vote on various initiatives that special interests put in front of them that ultimately may well enact casino gambling in some other form, in the form of mass slot machine palaces, for example, as would be possible under one of the two initiatives right now. That's probably the most important issue. But the one I wanted to focus on today was the loss of revenues. And I don't think there would be anybody who would argue that the figure that I've given of a loss of fifty to a hundred million dollars a year in revenues to the state, based on the Iowa and experiences elsewhere, is a conservative figure. This morning many of you came down for the briefing by the Fiscal staff on the Nebraska...on our budget problems. We