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February 5, 2004 LR 14

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Call the question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate does cease. Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close on LR 14CA, advancement to E & R Initial.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would remind you, as Senator Tyson just reminded you, is that the amendment has become the bill. So in essence, we're going to vote on the same thing all over again. But I would like to just mention a couple of things before we vote. I know that there are strongly held beliefs in this body regarding the whole issue of gambling. And I know that some people are not going to vote for this issue, and I respect that, and that is fine. But I also know that as of now, there are five petitions out there that deal with the gambling issue. And, Senator Tyson, I do agree with you. I believe Nebraskans have usually been knowledgeable and right when they have voted on different ballot issues through the years. And I trust they will do that this year. But I don't know what they're going to do this year, and neither do you. And I'm not willing (laugh) to gamble, I guess, on not having an alternative on the ballot. I think it is incumbent upon us to give a choice. I also think it is very important for us to retain control over the regulation and taxation of any kind of gambling that does come into the state. I do think that there is some interest in perhaps putting an amendment on this CA that would give people in their counties the right to approve or disapprove. And several people expressed interest in that yesterday while we were debating. I said I would be willing to consider it. So far, nobody has brought any language. I think that would need to be worked out. But I'm not adverse to considering that on Select File. So