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FLOOR DEBATE

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that was struck down by the courts in the last few weeks before the election. This, as I recall, would allow up to 326,000 video slot machines in the state of Nebraska. There were other things as well. The state was left with all the bills and no revenue out of this. The issues that are on the ballot or are likely to be on the ballot this time are better, but still not very good, as I see them. With the last election, the polls taken a few weeks before the election showed that there was a 65 percent likelihood from the voters that that was going to pass. I think we'll agree that's an extremely high number. Polls can be wrong. People can change their mind. But that's trying to get an awful lot of people to change their mind. So I think that threat is definitely there, if the Legislature doesn't come up with something that's reasonable. Scattering casinos across the state of Nebraska, to me, is not reasonable. The problem is the loss of money to the state of Iowa, and basically in the Omaha-Council Bluffs area. If we're going to do anything, this would seem to be essentially what we need to do. I think what the people in outstate Nebraska need to know is this: If Omaha, for instance, were to have that casino next to their new convention center, where does the money go? Does it all stay in Omaha? I would suggest that if Omaha does, and we do go ahead with one casino, and it is located to that new regional convention center, that the money derived from that go to the rest of the state of Nebraska, and that Omaha, I would think, would do very well with having their hotels, restaurants, shopping centers, et cetera, as well as their convention center, filled. So I would like to go one step beyond what Senator Smith has suggested. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Erdman, on the Smith amendment.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. As tempting as it is to speak at this time, I'm going to yield the time to Senator Smith.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, Senator Erdman. I think it's important to discuss that if LR 14CA in its currently