

the horse races, the large scale gamblers, I think that the state has accepted gambling as a legitimate activity but has attempted to cut down competition and restrict it to certain individuals. In view of the fact that I'm here as a legislator whose job it is to try to make the laws apply equally and equitably to all, I'm in support not only of Senator DeCamp's amendment, but I'm offering some amendments of my own, and then for the first time that I can think of I will support a bill which will liberalize the gambling laws of the state, and for my part so my position is clear, if gambling is an evil, it should be done by all or it should be done by none, because that's the way evil should be dealt with. Since the state is not going to prohibit it, then it's got to be available for all those who want to participate in the same way that businesses or any other enterprise which produces revenue is open to everybody. So I'm in support of Senator DeCamp's amendment, and I don't think it does anything substantial at this point. Mine won't do anything that's substantial either, but it's an attempt to make these gambling laws which will be placed in effect operate a bit more equitably.

PRESIDENT: Before we come to the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce from Senator Maresh's district sixteen 4th grade students from Exeter School, Exeter, Nebraska, Marion Rayburn, teacher. They're in the south balcony. Would they indicate where they are up there to us? In the south balcony over here. Yes, right back here in the corner. Now we also have in the south balcony from Senator Lamb's district thirteen Senior High students from Sandhills School, Dunning, Nebraska, Evert Whitten, teacher. They're over here in the south balcony. Would they indicate where they are at? Okay, welcome to the Legislature all of you. The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, April 19, 1979, St. John, St. Ernest and St. Patrick all on the same side of the fence, to a certain degree that is. St. John, listen and listen well. You're telling me, John, that you think the penalties here are too harsh. Who in this Legislature has had a phone call from someone complaining that the penalties for gambling are too harsh? One. What happened with prostitution? Well, we liberalized prostitution in this state to a citation. Now what happened, ladies and gentlemen? Well, what happened now is you have girls coming in from Chicago. You have them coming in from the State of Texas. St. John, I think we ought to be honest with one another in this Legislature.