

May 2, 1979

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of that gambling are going to stand up here and say something is wrong with this bill. Either gambling is wrong or it is not. The state has said that it is not...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...so I am going to do what I can with my vote and my voice to see that we somewhat equalize this unfair situation. I think gambling is evil but if the state is going to authorize it I am for cutting down these penalties and thereby increasing the competition and they should compete against Aksarben and the churches.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten, your light is on.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Call the question, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. The question is, shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Record.

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

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is carried. Debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland to close on his amendment.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I will have a brief closing, Mr. Speaker. Let me make three points. First of all, we have been in touch with the Attorney General's office, people this afternoon, who have participated in drafting this bill and they have indicated to us that they would be delighted if this offense were put back up to a felony. They have no difficulty with that at all. Secondly, there was a reference made late yesterday afternoon that gambling has never been a felony in the State of Nebraska. I would like to correct that record. I have before me the gambling statutes from the State of Nebraska that have been in effect from 1929 until the new criminal code went into effect this year. In at least four different sections I have been able to pick out and a brief perusal of that made various kinds of gambling offenses a felony including Section 28-944, 945, 953 and 954. It has been the history and the tradition of this state since at least 1929 to make an assortment of gambling offenses felonies and I see no difficulty with that at all. Now, third, it seems to me we have a fundamental policy judgement to make here and Senator Chambers has articulated that well. Is gambling to be legal or is gambling to be illegal? I don't

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