

February 21, 1980

LB 612

Senator Hefner's three brothers and wives, Gerhardt and his wife, Marcella; Wendel; and then Franklin and his wife, Janice. Would the Hefners stand and be recognized? They are also under the North balcony. Welcome to the Hefners. The Chair recognizes Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members, I call for the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

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

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. Debate ceases and, Senator Chambers, you may close on your motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am looking at a handout Senator Simon gave us and it is interesting that one of the paragraphs says that there are fourteen states with a population of ninety million that have lotteries and the total sales is over two billion dollars netted. That kind of corresponds to the amount that the FBI found is the take from the pornography business and they say gambling, pornography, prostitution and all these things are associated with each other. So if I follow the reasoning of Senator Johnson, Senator Simon and others, and Senator DeCamp, if because a lot of people are doing things, you will legalize it and let the state handle it, why doesn't the state handle the drinking? Why doesn't the state sell the dope? Why doesn't the state set up brothels and make the money because it is there? Saying that gambling has been here a long time is not a basis for justifying. Senator Labeledz would never stand and say that the Catholic Church knows its sin started in the Garden of Eden, therefore, sin ought to be condoned. Why there wouldn't be any need for the church any more. Now you are not taxing gambling with this bill, as Senator DeCamp says. With this particular piece of legislation the public who is putting up all the money gets forty-five percent of that back in winnings. The state takes forty percent. What we have to say is fifty-five percent does not go back to the public. There is no operation that I know in this state, legitimate or otherwise, where the tax, if that is what it should be called, is fifty-five