

very careful before we pass this resolution because once we do, that's the end of it. They will have retrocession for the rest of the time. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Next to speak will be Speaker Nichol followed by Senator Pappas.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, isn't it funny? Last year retrocession had a tough time. This year gambling comes into the picture and it is sailing along smooth as anything. Do you think that the people scattered across the state, such as I, who are a long, long ways from Winnebago or the Omaha Tribe have this much care or worries about retrocession in Thurston County? But have a look around. Those who are supporting gambling issues are supporting retrocession. When you have an area in the State of Nebraska that handles their own criminal law, they can do as they please pretty much. Now, if the Indians in the Winnebago Tribe wish to have gambling, there is no one else enforcing the situation other than Indians themselves. If the Indians themselves don't do anything, then gambling in the area is permissible and I would venture not be challenged by anyone outside of the Indian tribe and that is what retrocession says. Indians, take care of your own criminal affairs and we'll stay out of it. I don't know that the gambling situation should be controlling this kind of a situation and I think it is. I think it is. I think absolutely, and I don't have anything to verify this, but I think that the gambling concerns across the United States and mostly outside of Nebraska have their eye on this area. I have heard that they do have their eye on this area, and if it is so, and I repeat, I don't know that it is so because I can't prove it, but a lot of things are unprovable when you're talking about a situation such as this. I really think that gambling is wielding the stick on retrocession. If gambling were not involved, I think retrocession would be exactly where it was last year or the year before and that is faltering and not coming anywhere near passing. But as long as gambling is in it and few want the gambling in the state at the cost of anybody, including the Indians, then it's okay. I don't intend to have it on my conscience that gambling forces me into retrocession, and if the Indians deserve retrocession, that's one item. But when gambling gets into the picture so strong as I feel it is in this instance, I don't think gambling should be telling the Legislature what to do, nor do I think gambling