

Thurs...in Thurston County? What kind of economic development has this body promoted on the reservations? And as I was sitting down there, they were talking about an \$18 million proposal to put a bunch of new windows in the Civic Auditorium. And they mentioned economic development. And they said, you know, this is, this is a great thing for Omaha. And at the same time we're up on this floor, we're talking about denying, ignoring, refusing to follow federal law, which we may not like, refusing to follow federal law to give the reservations the sort of rights and authority that the federal government has deemed they have because they are a sovereign nation. Now, something struck me peculiar about that. And because of the problems on the reservation, they have decided to utilize gaming as a tool of economic development, like it or not. Federal government says it's okay. State government says it's okay. We're talking about what kind of tribal compact can you negotiate. And through benign neglect, or intentional prejudice, we have a situation existing on the reservations where they see this as an alternative that they have to utilize to try to rid themselves of the economic devastation that they suffered year in and year out. They're starting to do something about it. If you want to see an area rife with unemployment, come with me to the hills on the Omaha Reservation. Come with me to the hills on the Omaha Reservation. If you want to see an area wracked by social problem, come with me to the main street of Winnebago. Come with me to the main street of Winnebago. If you want to see an area ripped apart by economic devastation and a lack of opportunity, come with me up Highway 77 to the reservations in District 17, and I will show you all of those things. But don't bring me a half cent sales tax for renovation of a civic auditorium that doesn't need to be renovated before you do this. You have not violated the law of Nebraska and you have followed federal law completely, implicitly, explicitly, to the letter if you adopt this amendment. If you do not adopt this amendment, you have said simply, we don't have to do what we're supposed to do here, we'll do what we want to do. We don't care that the federal government determined that this was a means of economic opportunity for the reservations; we don't care. We don't like it. Well if you don't like it, change the federal law. If you don't like how it's operating, change the federal law. But do not do something in this body, on this floor, with this legislation that deprives those people of the opportunities that they're entitled to under the federal law, because they are a sovereign people and a sovereign tribe, and they have the right to those opportunities, like it or not. Like it or not.