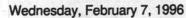
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talked this morning, you've got your head in the sand," Schellpeper said. "This state is gambling, and if people are going to gamble, let's let the money stay in the state."

A 1996 Nebraska State Racing Commission study revealed that Ne-braska residents spend more than \$200 million a year gambling in neighboring states, including Iowa and South

The study also said the expansion of casino gambling would keep at least a portion of the profits in the state.

But Sen. Curt Bromm of Wahoo said he thought that portion would be very small.

"The real profits would go out of the state," he said. "We'd just get a spattering of the profits."

Even senators who had remained relatively quiet on the issue took time to comment.

Sen. Pam Brown of Omaha said she couldn't find a decent argument for the resolution.

"I'm still waiting for some argu-ments I find compelling," she said. "The gambling dollars will go out of the state one way or another. I feel this issue has got its fair shot."

With this pressing issue behind them, senators say they are now ready to tackle other important tasks that lie before them.

"The removal of this bill will allow us to get to other issues with sufficient energy and time," Landis said.

Wesely said the Legislature could now concentrate on property taxes and the budget.

"I think it will allow some people to refocus on other issues," he said. "I think that's good."

Senior Reporter Mike Kluck contributed to this report.

