

March 5, 1976

I would hope that the bill does not come back. I would hope that we do not support Senator Mills. I would hope that you would vote no and let the bill go ahead and be read and sent to the Governor for his signature. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues. All of the discussions so far have talked to various small parts of 519. I would mainly address my remarks to the question, is LB 519 needed. It's sold on the basis that it will increase horse racing in Nebraska. The group in Kearney that is the main promoter that without 519 horse racing in Nebraska will suffer. There will be no growth or expansion in this industry. However, under the present statutes we have excellent horse racing industry in Nebraska, namely Omaha, Grand Island, Madison, Columbus, South Sioux City, Lincoln and very recently Broken Bow which is an expansion. This summer there will be quarter-horse racing in Deshler. Their people are all put together. Their money is under control. Their track is ready to go. They will be running quarterhorses at Deshler come Summer of 1976.

Maybe in '76, for sure in '77, there will be a quarter-horse race track in McCook, Nebraska. Now with Broken Bow, Deshler and McCook under the present statutes there is a 50 percent increase in the number of horse race meets that will be operating in Nebraska. If that isn't expansion and growth in this industry I sure would like to know what would be expansion and growth. I submit to you again that this expansion and the original horse race industry was put together under the existing statutes. It was not necessary to have an extra three percent for a particular track to be expanded or to be broad on stream. Now three percent appears to be insignificant until you compare it to the fact that it's actually a 20 percent cost as far as the expenses to the better is concerned.

One last punctuation and my remarks are through. LB 519 causes the political subdivisions of counties to own the facilities and to be the operator of the horse race meet. It does allow that the county may lease out the operation. Now this permission also allows the county to be the operator, hire all of the people that are connected with the track by the county supervisors in your county.

I submit, sincerely, that 519 is not needed even in its compromised, amended form. I believe it should be returned and killed.

(President Whelan presiding)

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. President, members of the body. I would probably have to agree with my good friend, Senator Dick Lewis, that the Attorney General's opinion is not always adhered to. I'm sure yesterday in the banking bill, even if we had had an opinion on our desk that the vote would have been wired to send that bill through anyway.