

we held it at four and a half percent. But if you are going to recruit you do that well in advance, just like for football or horse racing. If you are going to recruit the horses for next year, you are going to have to be able to assure them of the facilities, and you are going to have to be able to assure them of the prizes. This guarantee of the tax laid in place now, of one half percent, generates an additional \$1 million, that one item alone. As I say I don't think there will be any fiscal impact, but it generates it and they know in advance they will have it, they can begin anticipating and rely on it, and they can develop around it. So I would urge you to adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I know that most of you are engaged in other conversation. I would ask you to halt your conversation for 30 seconds so that you know that Senator DeCamp's amendment does this, it takes from the state tax base next year \$1.5 million. You should know that. It takes from the state tax base, next year, \$1.5 million. You should know that. You are about to give away, if you adopt the amendment, \$1.5 million, and you are going to give it away to Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha primarily, the facility that pays no property taxes, none, not one iota of property tax to the City of Omaha, not one iota of property tax to the County of Douglas, not one iota of property tax to the School District of Omaha, none. But yet it drains Omaha's resources to monitor that Palladium of pleasure. Now I know each of you have been lobbied, you have been lobbied by Bob Skochdopole, Tom Litjen, Mike Kelley, all good friends of ours because we see them frequently in the Nebraska Club. Ak-Sar-Ben makes a lot more money to pay those men a little fee to come down here and take \$1.5 million from the taxpayers of our state than to operate a race track. This is the most profitable way of making money, hire a lobbyist, have a few dinners, and then diminish the state tax base. Let the other boys pick up the load. Ak-Sar-Ben is telling you that we're going to have a terrible year. Have you read the newspaper accounts? Their opening day at the track this year was a record attendance. They've never had a better opening day. Most people in the history of Ak-Sar-Ben this year. Did you read the paper this morning, the headline this morning? Eighty-nine thousand dollars paid out today to two winners, or yesterday