

with LB 1041.

CLERK: Mr. President, 1041 introduced by Senators Conway, Hefner, Richard Peterson, Chronister, Smith, Rupp and Schmit. (Title read.) It was first read on January 16 of this year, referred to the Revenue Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, are you going to take the committee amendments, please?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, and they are pending. LB 1041 is one of three race track bills that were brought to the Revenue Committee by various and sundry senators. Under LB 1041 introduced by Senator Jerry Conway, et al., the intent of that piece of legislation was simply to increase the amount of money that the race tracks could take for their own from exotic wagers. An exotic wager is a high stakes gambling wager like the trifecta, the daily double, the pic-six, et cetera. The purpose of LB 1041 as introduced was simply to increase the amount of money that tracks could retain from the exotic wagers and to take a portion of that increase and to take a portion of that increase and to divvy it up among those tracks in Nebraska that are known as the small tracks and also the poor tracks, Atokad being a classically poor track because it's so small and Columbus being another. Now the Revenue Committee, as I indicated, heard a total of three bills and what we did is we simply took concepts in the other two bills and blended them into the committee amendments for 1041. Let me describe what probably the most important concept of the other two bills is. Senator DeCamp had introduced a race track bill, the number of which I can't recall offhand, which was to have reduced the state parimutuel tax from 5 percent of the handle to 3 percent of the handle and the purpose of that bill was to obviously permit the race tracks to retain a greater portion of the parimutuel handle than they theretofore had retained. The Revenue Committee, in examination of that particular issue in Senator DeCamp's bill, concluded following a variety of testimony that that kind of a reduction as called for in the handle, or called for in the tax, was simply too high. We also concluded, however, that we had to be somewhat sensitive today to the needs of the racing industry in our state because for the first time in a long time the racing industry in Nebraska