

the nose of Old Ironsides and help the handle a little bit. There is no way you're going to beat into Omaha or Columbus or some other place from such a far remote portion of the state to bet a few bucks, but you might go down to the local establishment and bet a few dollars. It might even enhance the handle a bit. Senator Haberman has suddenly absented himself. I understand he has some information relative to the nontax income that does accrue to the tracks. I would suggest that perhaps one reason why we oppose the Chambers' motion so diligently is not because we want to guard the handle, but because we want to guard the income from the nongambling activity, the food, the beverage, et cetera, et cetera. Otherwise, I don't think anyone could ever concede that a million and a half people scattered across the State of Nebraska might not contribute something to the handle when they can't possibly get to the track. If it's good to guard the handle, if we are gathered here this afternoon in solemn conclave to protect the handle, to protect that base, then certainly, Senator Vard, we ought to try to do that which would bring in the maximum dollar, not protect the concessioners, not protect the food portion of the establishment. If Senator Haberman is in hearing range, and I'm sure he is, notwithstanding his being hard of hearing, I would like to have him show up this afternoon so that I could ask him...(laugh)...he took a powder is what he took, Senator Hefner. I would like to ask him for the total amount of revenue that is available from all sources, from all sources, stall rental, et cetera, et cetera. It is substantial and I think that this body ought to understand. I would suggest, you know Senator Nelson said that she had been educated in the last three weeks. Well that's very laudable and I would encourage others to undertake additional education, but we all ought to be interested in education and we ought to find out, ought to find out the total amount of that handle. I have been told by people who claim to know that the illegal betting in Nebraska could exceed by many times, many times, the total amount of legal betting. All that Senator Chambers is asking is that we get the state's share of the cut, the state's share of the handle by the adoption of his amendment. I don't see how you can go back to your constituents and say, oh, yes, I think that the one kind is laudable and very commendatory and the other kind is "despicatory." I do not believe you can do that. I think you have to accept the Chambers amendment.