

Holmes to the Legislature. He is accompanied by Dr. Dean Schwendiman of the University of Nebraska, and I am sure you would find visiting with Dr. Holmes very interesting. Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, please, and then Senator Nelson.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. Senator Rupp was talking about the bad days that Columbus had. I don't think there is any track in the state has any worse days than Lincoln. We compete in Lincoln, Nebraska with Big Red football. I think last year we had to cancel like seven days of racing, plus we had out of the 40 some days, we had about 30 days that it rained. So, there is no track has any worse days than what the Lincoln race track does. Also, if you look at the financial statements from last year, the Columbus race track came out in the black by about \$240,000 while Lincoln lost about \$386,000 in the red. So, what this will do, it will even up the small tracks a little bit more? Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, and then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I know we are all guessing on what it will do to one track or the other track, but just for your information, in 1986 Fonner Park's wager was \$22,295,000. They have contributed to this fund, so to say whether they will get part of it this year or not, I don't know if they will be down below 20 million so that they would or would not qualify, and I know that the smaller tracks are concerned about that. Naturally, Lincoln would qualify but let me say that the State Fair, I feel, is for all people of the State of Nebraska, and not just for Lincoln, and we all have the bad weather problems except maybe Ak-Sar-Ben, and Fonner Park has contributed to this for some time. Also I obtained this information, 85 percent of the fund goes to thoroughbreds and 15 percent to the quarter horses. So that will tell some of you a little bit, too. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, then Senator Firsch.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. This is a major change. If we are going to adopt a change like this, why then we should send the bill back to committee to have a public hearing on it. The tracks along with some of the committees, I think it was the Revenue Committee, worked this proposal out several years ago.