

works, and so probably if we survive for three years, we can come back in three years and get two more years, whatever else we need. I guess we just as well face the thing up front. If we are going to support it as a laudable kind of an activity, then we just take money out of the General Fund. Now, we don't have money for the Commonwealth victims. We don't have money for many of the other activities around the state, but we are going to subsidize this activity, so I don't see what the difference is, whether we subsidize it by direct appropriation or whether we subsidize it by removing the tax. I think that this might be the more honorable way to do it, and we would know then for once and for all where we are at, and, hopefully, the track would be able to budget accordingly. I think it is kind of a meritorious amendment and we ought to discuss it some more.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Vard Johnson, please.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, what Senator Pappas is offering is an amendment that would appropriate about \$2 million a year from General Funds for Ak-Sar-Ben. Now, Senator Pappas says that rather than give Ak-Sar-Ben relief from the parimutuel tax, we ought to just simply appropriate 2 million bucks a year and send it out to the track and say, pay off your debt, come back and see us after you have got your debt paid. Now I know that when you deal with these tax break bills as we are dealing with, you do kind of pull your hair out, and you get to the point of saying I would like to just do it this way. Let me just give them the money. As opposed to relieving them from taxes, let me just give them the money. Now I appreciate Senator Pappas's sentiment on it. I don't appreciate the amendment but I appreciate the sentiment, I appreciate the feeling, I appreciate the vexation that Senator Pappas feels and Senator Schmit feels in having to deal with Ak-Sar-Ben one more time on a gambling issue and a taxation issue. But as you remember we had a conversation this very morning an hour and a half ago on Senator Paul Hartnett's, or it wasn't his constitutional amendment, it was that of his committee, the Urban Affairs Committee to, in effect, use public dollars for private purposes, and Senator Hartnett well knows that the Constitution, itself, has to be amended before we can use public dollars for private purposes. Well, the same is true frankly for the State of Nebraska, so even though in a moment of weakness, Senator Pappas would want us to simply take public dollars and give it to Ak-Sar-Ben, and even though in a moment of weakness Senator Schmit would simply want us to take public dollars and give it to Ak-Sar-Ben, Ak-Sar-Ben is, after all, a