

powerful public known as the power structure, the resolve evaporates and we come to an atrocious bill like this and reasons are given why it should pass. There are too many tracks in this state. With the competition from other states, they cannot survive, Senator Johnson. Horse racing, as it was known, cannot survive in this state.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Ak-Sar-Ben is on a life support system, and I'm wondering how long the Legislature is going to subsidize Ak-Sar-Ben. That is why this bill is here. Senator Nelson, if it was just Fonner park, there would be no bill here. There are senators from other cities who have these little tracks who've told me they've got to go along with some of these Ak-Sar-Ben bills to get a little something for their tracks. And they know their tracks were added only to get their support for Ak-Sar-Ben. I wouldn't be surprised if somebody is not set upon by Ak-Sar-Ben to bring in a constitutional amendment to allow the state to affirmatively subsidize Ak-Sar-Ben, not just give them tax concessions, but take tax money already in the General Fund and appropriate it to Ak-Sar-Ben. And with what we've done this session, that is not out of the question. We have an opportunity now to do one thing that will show responsibility, and that is to strike the enacting clause on this bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, please, then Senator Hall.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, might I relate to you that during the racing season at Fonner Park we have over 500 people employed there, part time and full time. That means a lot when you're talking about the economy, and it's that extra spare money that sometimes that is the only extra job that a lot of the women have and a lot of the people that are employed there. That is what supplements that income and carries them through the season. I think also that in Fonner Park there are over 700 farmers that do raise feed, provide the straw, raise the horses and so on for these tracks. This is an industry that is not a small industry. In all of our discussion in the last three weeks, four weeks, or six weeks in regards to, I swear I would never mention these two names again, but they are talking about bringing in maybe 500 or 600 employees, and as I said, into the state, not employees that are already in Nebraska, over a 5-year period of time. We're, on the other hand, turning right around and maybe letting an industry go down