

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you. I think maybe Iowa is able to do it because they have so much money from lottery coming in, because I think last week when this lottery was the big question, this is an editorial comment, not on the bill, but simply that all the cars, most of the cars, that the big payoff was from Nebraska, but so maybe that is why they are able to go ahead and get in full board with gambling. But I do support this constitutional amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I also rise to support the amendment. I would have preferred to have the resolution...I would have preferred to have supported it with the provision that would have allowed for the off-track betting. I really do not believe we are going to acquire sufficient outside income to be of substantial help to the tracks with only the intrastate, interstate simulcasting. I think we can add some substantial revenue with intrastate simulcasting and I am in favor of what we are doing here, but I think we ought to reconsider the impact, and we should visit with the folks who are specifically involved as to whether or not they want to provide for the off-track services. I think that it is kind of a little bit tough perhaps to get this all at once, but I think that there is some support for it, and I think in all honesty that there are those who would patronize the tracks at this time if they didn't have to drive several hundred miles. The facility being available at Grand Island would make it a little bit easier for those in the western part of the state to participate in wagering at a track in Omaha, but certainly there are those in the western part of the state, out in Senator Wehling's and Senator Scofield's territory, who might also be inclined to place a small wager upon the outcome of a race at Omaha. And I think we ought to take a look at that. We have, as Senator Vard Johnson has indicated, taken virtually all of the taxes off of racing in an attempt to keep an important industry in the state. I am in favor of that. I think it is a good move, but I think that you might want to take a look at whether or not you give the industry enough rope to make themselves whole again, get back to solid ground, or if we spoon-feed them until they no longer exist. I enjoy racing and I think that the state has condoned it for a long time and do not look upon it as the threat that some people do to morality, but I do believe that prior to the time the resolution comes up