

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

but anyway, it still will be...there will be five racetracks. We have been meeting since last fall on all of these problems with all of the different racetracks and the Racing Commission, too, and we have been able to work out a compromise. I don't think it is what everybody wanted but it is a compromise that all of the racetracks have agreed upon. They have agreed to let Douglas County purchase Ak-Sar-Ben. There is going to be a five-year agreement worked out between the tracks, themselves. Everybody, I think, is willing to buy into it. We have had probably five, six meetings with everybody involved, and with that, I passed out a sheet that will explain a little better what we are really trying to do with the Racing Commission, which presently they are going to be short about \$100,000, and it is our theory that every agency should be funded by the people that use that service. And so we think that the racetracks should fund the main funding of the Racing Commission and so that is what we are attempting to do with this amendment. And there is a two-year...there is a one-year moratorium for State Fair Park, and there will be an amendment to follow that will be for one more year, because if we don't do that, then we have to be back next year to change it again, but that wasn't worked out in time to be in the committee amendments. With that, I will stop and would be glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Mr. Clerk, do you have amendments on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Johnson, Rod Johnson, would move to amend the committee amendments. (See AM2920 on page 873 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you. We had this debate, and I guess I will qualify my comments here, we had a debate in the committee, General Affairs Committee, about how we deal with the quarter horse industry in Nebraska. What we found was that the Racing Commission needed money to operate, and one of the options that was considered and adopted by the committee was to get into the small track fund and basically redesignate how that small track fund is going to be expended and, basically, cut out the quarter horse racing dollars completely. And there is a concern, I guess, by those of us who represent individuals who are trying to operate, at least the Queen City Downs track in