

March 31, 1992

LB 929, 1061

the Chamber. Thank you. Further amendments, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment is by Senator Robak. (Robak amendment appears on pages 1762-63 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, this amendment I have offering is actually my amendment, LB 929 that was heard in the Urban Affairs Committee. It is still being held in committee. It's a simple amendment. All it is, it changes the number of commissioners from three to five, the race commissioners from three to five members and the reason for that is I think everybody heard all the arguments today on the floor. This is one of the longest bills that we've heard in a long time and so it proves one thing, that this is controversial and the race commissioners are making a lot of decisions in various aspects besides horse races, so I think to have more credibility I think we need to increase our number of commissioners from three to five. Senator Lamb, I was the one that passed out this little piece of paper today. The racing officials said the report was not damaging. I believe that it was damaging and if you read the last paragraph of the news article it says, allegations reported investigated were misuse of commission funds, specifically the reimbursement of employee travel expenses along with salaries paid and recent staffing increases, use of obscene and offensive language by a commission employee and staff members violating the rules of race, and/or profiting at the time and expense of the commission. So if we only have three members on a commission it doesn't take, you know, much to make a quorum or to have, if you have two dishonest people on a commission, not that they are dishonest or not doing a good job, but I think we would have a little better representation if we increased our membership on the Race Commission from three members to five members and Senator Schellpeper was talking a little while ago about we have too many racetracks in Nebraska here and there was only a few racetracks that we can support. That would be like saying there's too many farmers in Nebraska so let's let half of them go under. I mean, you know there's just too many of you. Bigger is not always better. If we're going to have racetrack let's put them out where you and I live, Stan, because pretty soon they're going to all be in Omaha. If there's only going to be one, it's going to be in Omaha and the name of the game in