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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Going back a little bit in time when Ak-Sar-Ben was a good neighbor, they still are but they don't have any funds to work with anymore. I remember what they did to or for 4-H clubs and FFA chapters throughout the state. They would have calf sales when the young people that belonged to the FFA chapters and 4-H clubs came down there, and they would arrange that there were buyers there from several different restaurants, from some of the commission companies that were at the stockyards at that time. And I don't mean to dwell on the past, but those things were available because Ak-Sar-Ben was such a vibrant organization at that time. And most of that came from their horseracing. They were able to do these things because of the revenues that were generated from the racing in Nebraska. I don't know whether we'll ever see that happen again, we'll ever see those...that type of racing, but if we don't do something to help bring back the industry of thoroughbred racing in this state, it will in a few short years be gone forever and it will be part of our history. But that doesn't mean that along with Ak-Sar-Ben going away and that type of lifestyle, that we are going to stop gaming. Gambling has been in our society for years and years. Back in...you see in the...in Egypt when they dig up the pharaohs and those things and explore those tombs, you see pictures on the writings on the walls about the chariots and so on. You can bet your life that there was gaming going on then. They were betting on those chariot races. The cavemen used to take chicken bones and roll them. They weren't rolling those things just for the fun of it. You can just bet your life that there was some wagering going on there. So if we bury our heads in the sand and say, no, we're not going to allow this to happen in Nebraska, whether the people want it or not, I think that we are doing our constituents...we are keeping something from them that they should be able to decide for themselves if they want. As I said before, we were all elected by our constituents. What makes you think that we don't trust them to make the right judgment on this issue? And it will never happen in the way we want to see it and this body where it's regulated and we have something to say about where the state is going to