

February 1, 1982

LB 631

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion then on the committee amendments on LB 631? Seeing none, I guess that is the opening and the closing then. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay on the committee amendments on LB 631. Record the vote.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The committee amendments are adopted. We will now have an explanation of the bill by Senator Von Minden. Senator Von Minden, you may proceed with the explanation of the bill.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, LB 631 is brought to you to try to right a wrong that was imposed on the racetrack in South Sioux City, Nebraska. I will give you a little history first about the race track and then about the bill. If you will listen to me now why we can save a lot of time on the bill later on. In the early 1950s a group of citizens in northeast Nebraska decided they would like to bring thoroughbred racing into Nebraska and also have a building where we can have different functions in northeast Nebraska large enough to accommodate them such as county fairs and horse shows and dog shows and 4-H shows and so on and so forth. We applied to the Racing Commission for a license to have a racetrack. We were granted that in 1955 and we were granted fall dates. Since 1955 we have been doing quite well. We run in the black most of the years and some of the years we are a little bit in the red. The State Racing Commission felt perhaps they could help us out a little bit and they wanted to try an experiment. They said, we will take your dates away from you and give them to Omaha and Lincoln who can absorb them and use them much better than you can, and we will let you race in the summertime and give you more dates to run so you can perhaps make more money. Well we tried the experiment and it worked out real well for the other racetracks and for the State of Nebraska. They, in turn, the pari-mutuel handle was so much greater than the big tracks that Nebraska got \$1,400,000 more tax money than by having the dates up at our racetrack up in northeast Nebraska. The other part of this agreement didn't work too well for a thoroughbred racetrack at Atokad. We lost a half a million dollars. We found out that we can't run a racetrack in competition with Omaha which is only a hundred miles away. They have nicer facilities, faster horses and people with