

March 4, 1982

LB 631

Lincoln pays \$1,408,000 under the present tax, would pay \$1,409,000 for a difference of \$833 or only .6 of a percent, and Fonner Park in Grand Island would pay \$1,186,000....or is now paying \$1,186,000, will pay \$1,164,000 or \$21,000 less, or a difference of a negative 1.8 percent. This results in the same, or actually it results in just a little bit different...little bit, a small increase in revenue to the State of Nebraska, \$223,000 or approximately 2.6 percent. Now when you look at Aksarben, when you are looking at \$5 and \$6 million, \$348,000 isn't that much difference. It is just 6 percent difference. This isn't going to hurt anybody but it is going to help South Sioux City. It is going to help Columbus and it is going to help Fonner Park, and it is not going to help them at a great expense to the larger tracks. Now you can wait. You can say, hey we got this bill going across, this isn't the time to do it, we've got to hurry up and get this across, and I can hear the arguments coming, and then next year or two years from now you have got the same situation in here with Columbus that you have today with South Sioux City and it is too late again. Now if that is what you want to do, if you want to shut those tracks up, that is fine. But had we adopted this proposition three years ago when it was initially brought before this body, we wouldn't be sitting here today with a last ditch effort to try to pump in life to something that is pretty dead. South Sioux City would have had more viability. Now the Columbus Racing Association supports this. I haven't spent a lot of time lobbying this. I think the figures speak for themselves. I think you people can all sit here and listen to them and look at it and determine whether it is a right way to go or not a right way to go. It is not that complicated. It is not that significant. I just beg and urge you to think about these figures, to think where we are today. You have seen something happen with South Sioux City. You have got experience in front of you. You all have seen the trend in Columbus. You have seen the trend in Fonner, and you have an opportunity to do something about it. Now, if something I am saying is not so, we can take it off Final Reading. I won't oppose it. But because we have such a short number on the floor today, I would like this idea to be adopted, to be viable, to generate some public commentary and once it is adopted people are going to pay attention to it. So please give me a vote today to put this concept on. It is well thought out and it is not going to hurt anybody. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

8271