

March 4, 1982

LB 631

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the Dworak amendment and I hate to do this because I know that we need to look at our whole racing structure. Senator Dworak's amendment talks about a graduated pari-mutuel tax. It is quite a complicated formula. I don't have it here on my desk. I don't see it printed in the Journal and so I would like to suggest to Senator Dworak that we have an interim study on this. If we adopt this amendment, what we will be doing is killing LB 631. Like I told you earlier in the day, Atokad and northeast Nebraska needs this bill. If we don't get this bill, I don't believe there will be any racing up in northeast Nebraska this spring. The racing days are just about a month away and so we do not have too much time. And let me tell you just a little bit about how Atokad got into this trouble. They were doing all right until the Racing Commission took the fall days and gave them to the larger race tracks in Nebraska. That is when we got in trouble at Atokad. But by doing this, by giving the fall dates to the larger race tracks and letting Atokad race when Aksarben was racing, the state took in \$1.4 million. They took in \$1.4 million more than the previous year, and this came from the pari-mutuel tax. So the State of Nebraska was quite a little better off by doing this. Columbus still has their regular race days which are in the fall of the year, or I should say early fall, and so they still have a chance to get in on some of the good days, good receipts. And so I would like to ask Senator Dworak to withdraw this amendment and then we will have an interim study on this this fall, or this summer, and I will certainly sign that resolution with him. If he doesn't withdraw it, why I would like to ask you to oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, do you wish to be recognized? Senator VonMinden.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I will not waste a lot of time arguing the point with Senator Dworak and repeat what Senator Hefner already said, but I will have to say again, our Atokad was not in the financial difficulty that they were in until we lost our racing dates. The best way I can come across to you is to tell you the truth about the bill. The bill again, as I said before, was not drafted by me, it was drafted by the State Racing Commission. I have to tell you they drafted the bill with the blessings of the five race tracks in Nebraska, the Thoroughbred Horses, and the only part that Senator Hefner or I had in drafting the bill was that we did tell the Racing Commission that we

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