

March 4, 1982

LB 631

would try to keep this bill clean, we would try to keep this bill the way the Racing Commission intended it to be, and that is why I have to stand up and oppose the bill. We have a race track in Nebraska...or up in South Sioux City, the Atokad racetrack that is in financial difficulty and to put this amendment that Senator Dworak has on it, we are apt to hold the bill up, perhaps it could even kill the bill. And I think on account of the Racing Commission has got our track in the trouble they have it in, we should move this bill along. Thank you, sir.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR DWORAK: Well, I didn't realize this was a dirty amendment. Senator VonMinden, we are doing absolutely nothing, absolutely nothing, to alter the intent and the end results of your bill. We are doing absolutely not a thing to change what you are trying to do for Atokad and I thought you were trying to do it but now you tell me the State Racing Commission is trying to do it who I have all kinds of confidence in since they are the ones that changed the dates and got Atokad in the trouble they are in in the first place, and it is too late, and I don't want the same thing happening to Columbus. Now if this body as a philosophy wants to say, we are going to close those small tracks down, fine, let's close them down and kill this bill. If that is what we want to do, let's close them down. I don't care. I don't go to the horse races. I think they are dumb. But if this body as a matter of policy says these little tracks shouldn't continue to exist, then we don't need 631. But if we are going to scramble and if we are going to pass this piece of legislation to save Atokad and we are going to say there is some social value to the thoroughbred industry, and if we are going to say, we do need this, then for gosh sakes let's do something with this piece of legislation so we don't have the Columbuses and the Fonner Parks and everybody else coming in down the road where we are subsidizing to the tune like we are subsidizing now for Atokad. It seems to me that we have got a little parochial viewpoint, Senator VonMinden. We want to save Atokad but we don't give a darn about Columbus. Now is the time to try and help them before they are against the wall, before we have got them knocked down. The time is now, Senator Hefner, not another study and another study and another study. The time is now. This isn't going to slow this bill up. Put the amendment on and let it go.

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