

SENATOR SMITH: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't need to ask you any more questions. (Laughter.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, there were basically two bills that were introduced this year on interstate simulcasting, one was Senator Schmit's bill that we're now discussing, the other was a bill that I introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Breeders Association, it was LB 736. And the major difference between those two bills happened to deal with the length of time that interstate simulcasting could be broadcast into the State of Nebraska. There was concern, there still is concern, and that is part of the reason that there are committee amendments that call for consultation with the breeders on the impact of interstate simulcasting and having some say on the board as to how interstate simulcasting will be used. But the concern is that as we allow interstate simulcasting to take place in the state, on a year-round basis, how does that affect the live horse racing that goes on in our state in the nine and a half months that we have in this state. I think the breeders are concerned that with interstate simulcasting and some of the larger simulcast races that will come into the state that there might be an impact on the preference of the more sophisticated horse bettor that they may not wish to observe the races that may not be as of high a quality as some of the races that they'll be getting through interstate simulcasting. So, as I said, through a compromise that was reached with the Nebraska Breeders Association and the tracks and through the leadership of Senator Smith we, I think, reached a point where everyone feels they have an opportunity to have a say in how interstate simulcasting will work in the state. I still have some sincere concerns with the impact that interstate simulcasting will have on a year-round basis to live racing. I hope we keep that in mind, because I think interstate, or at least live racing in the state will benefit from interstate simulcasting. But we don't want to saturate the market to a point where we lose the interest of those who like to observe live racing in our state. So I hope that you'll keep that in the back of your minds as you vote on this issue.