

Mr. President, I have no further comments at this time. I'm willing to answer any questions that might be brought up.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Discussion on the advancement of the bill. Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. As co-sponsor of LB 591 I rise in support of LB 591, and also as a member of the committee. I apologize to Senator Schmit because I don't know whether he mentioned it or not, but on the constitutional amendment 2, which was permitted...which permitted simulcasting was passed in November of 1988 by 62.5 percent of the people voting in this state. And LB 591 is just enabling legislation for that ballot question. I know in the committee there was some concern that interstate simulcasting might endanger live racing in Nebraska. But now I believe that everyone is in agreement that LB 591 is a good bill and it should be passed. The five thoroughbred race tracks and the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Agency, which represents the owners and trainers, and both of Nebraska's breeders associations have agreed on the language of LB 591. It also, and I think this is very important, contains provisions whereby the Nebraska Racing Commission and the horsemen, in any currently operating race track, must give their permission before any interstate simulcasting can be conducted in any Nebraska race track. Therefore I urge the advancement of LB 591. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I also rise to support 591. I know out at the State Fair Park, at a meeting this last weekend, we decided that we're going to have a lot of big celebrations for several races out there. The Kentucky Derby is coming up on May 6th, so we need to move this bill right along. And there are other, several big races that will be coming up. I know all the other tracks are planning to have some big celebrations, too. So I would just urge that we move this bill as soon as possible. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, that won't be necessary. Senator