

the industry has some benefit to the state which I think for at least some of those families in my district that are involved in this industry it does help pay the bills.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Rogers.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would just like to say a few more words. I think there's another fact that ought to be pointed out here and that is that when the racing industry was doing really well, a lot of people liked to be associated with it. And Senator Peterson touched upon another issue and that is that a lot of my breeders, small breeders were not able to get stalls at the various tracks because of competition from other breeders. It just may be that today we do not have the support from many of the persons who did support the...the industry and Ak-Sar-Ben and the other tracks in the years that you might have...you might have called it the "golden years". It would be easy for me to resent the fact that some of the people from Omaha who have been traditional supporters of Ak-Sar-Ben are showing less than enthusiastic support for their...for them now and are really showing some indifference perhaps to the cause. I don't know whether they are leaving the ship ahead of time, prematurely or what it is, but I would suggest that there ought to be and there should be a renewal of interest by the persons in Omaha who traditionally were active with Ak-Sar-Ben. There are a lot of memories of Ak-Sar-Ben and my memories go back to the days as a young lad when I used to show cattle there and it was quite an occasion to go to Ak-Sar-Ben. But today it's a different situation. It is always easy to jump on someone that's down and the industry is down today. But I like to look at the industry as being the thoroughbred industry, not necessarily racing industry. And there are those of us who think that the thoroughbred breed has been good for the state and good for all of us. I would hope that if the bill passes and becomes law that there would be a reassessment of the situation by the entire state that would be led by the principals out of Omaha who really have the most to win or lose if the industry is not allowed to continue. I would hope that they would take another...a different look, perhaps, at some of the activity that is going on; they would take a realistic look at the river boat that's proposed and will take place on the Missouri River, that they would reassess what happens to them if a casino is built in Council Bluffs, that they would reassess what would happen to them if there is a proliferation of other types of gambling activity, particularly keno, in this state.