

And I would ask you once again, as a Legislature, to reassess whether or not the state ought to be demanding a larger share of those overall revenues before those revenues are lost to the cities. I am not a strong supporter of the cities being the primary beneficiaries of legalized gaming in this state. I think it ought to be an area that ought to be reserved more for the state. It's a statewide activity and the revenues that accrue ought to be statewide revenues. There was a time when the State of Nebraska was a recipient of a substantial amount of revenue from racing. Whether that ever returns again we do not know. Whether it should return is a question of speculation. But if this Legislature does not pass this bill, there is little doubt in my mind but that the industry will fail. Maybe that is what has to happen. But I do not think that this Legislature at this time wants to make the decision that says that we do not...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...want to play a major role with the thoroughbred racing industry in this state and in the nation. There have been a number of persons prominent in racing that have come from Nebraska and we, in the Columbus area, Senator Robak and myself, I think have fond memories of the VanBerg family as well as many other breeders who do not achieve the fame of the VanBergs, but they've been good for Nebraska, they've been good for the state, been good for the nation. And I well recall, because I grew up with the VanBerg family, that Mrs. VanBerg who was of a faith that did not really condone gambling didn't really like the idea that her husband got into the racing business. And he said, well, I would like to bring to racing the same kind of principles that you brought to the church. And I think VanBerg did. And I think that it proves that people can be involved in this industry and be of good moral character.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: Call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rogers moves the previous question. Five hands? I do. Shall debate close? All in favor vote aye,