

great for the department's budget, for the commission's budget, then why didn't they bring in the bill? Why didn't they have a public hearing on it and sit down and talk to the individuals in the industry? That never happened. I just went out back and talked to the horsemen and they said, nobody came to us on this issue outside of Senator Smith. She is the only one that has mentioned it. The commission never raised this issue with either the horsemen, the track, or anyone. Maybe they talked to some of the other tracks. I know they did not talk to the track in Omaha. And they're coming in with an increase, although it only amounts to 20 to \$30,000, it's a considerable increase in terms of the amount of the fee, percentage-wise. Now it doesn't represent a whole lot of dollars and it's a stopgap proposal, as Senator Smith says, until they address it long range. But why didn't they bring in the bill in front of the committee and let the industry testify on it? If it was that needed, that important, then they should have done that. What they have done is said, well, we'll put it up, we'll ask Senator Smith to offer it as a Select File amendment because we can't find anybody else to do it, even though she sent them out to look, and she gets stuck holding the bag because she Chairs the committee, as many of us have had to do. But, in this case, nobody asked, nobody asked the industry if they would support this, if they would even address it. Had they asked, I think the amendment would have gone on probably as part of the committee amendments or would have been introduced as a bill, in the first place, or as a part of this bill the way it should have been. That's my objection to it, that and the fact that they're asking for the revenue after the fact. They've also asked, and we have asked, for the increase, in many cases they've been there asking for the increase in terms of regulation and oversight because of some of the problems that they have seen, they being the commission. Well, they can also ask for the revenue to help with that. The cost, for example, of the fingerprints is borne by those individuals who have to be fingerprinted. There should be no cost to the commission. It's a cash funded proposal. This is an increase in fees that the industry has had no say in. Nobody from the commission went to the industry, to the horsemen, and said, how do you guys feel about this? We need this to help offset some of the increased costs. Normally, there is a public hearing on those kinds of things. Normally, they're addressed in the committee through a hearing. That hasn't been the case here. I'm going to oppose the amendment. It is clearly no reflection on Senator Smith.