

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry for my dear friend, Senator Smith, and I know what we get behind of when we're a committee chair. I guess that it seems like I think we're spending way too long on some of these bills and we probably have had many others in the same position here. When you talk about increase, I can see that Fonner Park has been increased 500 percent. And when we talked about salary increases or so on for the senators, boy, 200 or 250 percent. I also appreciate the fact that for some reason or another they didn't say anything about the needed increase but I did check with people more knowledgeable than I a few minutes ago and I find that they have come back to some of the race tracks now for some additional help so maybe they're going to pay for it one way or the other. I don't know what Senator Smith thinks about increasing mine from 30 to \$150 a day, but I guess I will just accept it because I think she's got worse things coming down the line. Senator Smith, would you care to respond why I got a 500 percent increase over the Fonner Park?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: May I respond. Because Fonner Park is the only one that's making any money. (Laughter.)

SENATOR NELSON: Pardon.

SENATOR SMITH: No, I said because Fonner Park is the only one making any money but that isn't the reason. It was based on population and what comes in, the amount of money that comes into the track. And, really, it's true, Fonner Park is almost the biggest track in the state at this point in time. And it was really unfair based on what they were having to pay compared to those other tracks that were comparable in the amount of the handle, you know, money that came in.

SENATOR NELSON: I will be nice to you but don't forget it.

SENATOR SMITH: Thanks. (Laughter.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Is there anyone else wishing to discuss the bill? Seeing no one, Senator Smith, yours is the only light on, do you wish to close on your amendment?