

here, he'd probably say I'm a gambler because I'm always fighting for bingo and pickles and now I rise in support of Ak-Sar-Ben and I can't recall whether Senator Johnson gave the figures, but I was amazed to receive the figures this morning that in 1985 Ak-Sar-Ben handle was 154 million and in 1990 it's gone down to 69 million. He says if you had bet nine and one yesterday you would have won \$383. I just got a note sent to me by Senator Schmit. I always bet one and nine when I'm with Senator Schmit because I was born on the ninth day, the ninth month, the nineteenth day, 1919, and I don't pay any attention to the jockeys or the horses, but as I say, I've only been to 10 races in my whole life so I'm not that much knowledgeable on horse racing, but I am on Ak-Sar-Ben and what it has done for the City of Omaha and even in Bluffs Run in 1986 they had 122 million and now it's down to 78 million in Iowa, so if we're going to save the horse racing industry in Nebraska, I think that we probably have to do some very strong things to keep it going and Ak-Sar-Ben has been a tourism attraction in the City of Omaha and I sincerely believe that besides what they're doing with horse racing, the shows that they show and the county fair, it is essential that we do everything we can to keep horse racing in the City of Omaha, so I strongly support Senator Rod Johnson's amendment to LB 795.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Labeledz. The next speaker is Senator Smith. Is your name Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's not that I don't know my name, it's that I can't ever hear if you're saying Schmit or Smith, and I sure want you to know the difference. Nothing negative about you, Senator Schmit, wherever you are. No, but I've been hearing his name called a number of times and I keep jumping up and it's my turn now. I would just rise briefly to say that I'm going to support this amendment. I know that often on the floor I have not been supportive, or appeared maybe to the horse people or the thoroughbred racing industry, to be supportive of them specifically, but actually we do have to recognize that the horse racing industry, and I like it when they call it an industry. It really is in the State of Nebraska because it does impact on the economy of the state to a greater extent than any other gambling device or gambling game that we play in the state as far as the involvement of citizens and their well-being as far as their income is concerned. The only