

concern that I have is I want to make sure with Senator Johnson, and I'm not sure I heard when you...because I don't have a copy of this amendment, Senator Johnson. Are you referring to gross or net proceeds? To the gross proceeds, good, because I would have had a concern with the net proceeds since they apply to the community betterment funds. So I'm going to support this because, for a couple of reasons. I think that keno does offer a competition in the communities to this type of gambling which, as we know, has faltered in the state for a number of years and we've done some things to try to help it. I don't think we should stop now, given the fact that we've put a bunch of money into it. Because keno does...there's a possibility it could work two ways. Keno could be benefitted by the horse racing industry especially if you decide to play keno at the track, so it is benefitting by the fact that the track is there. On the other hand, it does cut into the racing industry itself, and so for this reason I'm going to be supportive of designating 2 percent of the proceeds to the handle for horsemen. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Now we will go to Senator Schmit. I don't see Senator Schmit. Senator Pirsch. Senator Pirsch, did you wish to...Senator Pirsch, did you wish to address the advancement of the amendment?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, thank you. Very briefly, I just wanted to say that I was concerned at what kind of an impact this would have on our Nebraska-bred horses and in looking at the increasing figures for the keno profits, I think it will be very significant and since I've always supported those Nebraska based businesses, I'm going to support Senator Johnson's amendment and hope this is an ever-increasing boost for Nebraska-bred thoroughbreds.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Seeing no one else wishing to address this, Senator Rod Johnson, would you like to close?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, very briefly.

SPEAKER BAACK: Oh, excuse me, Senator Johnson, Senator Abboud, would you like to speak to this?

SENATOR ABBOUD: Just a couple words. I really, Mr. President, colleagues, I feel rather uncomfortable about getting in the