

of the industry is to lend support to, what they call, the horse racing industry in Nebraska, they continually exclude their little poor cousins, the quarter horse tracks in Nebraska, and they've done this for years. Everything we've attempted to do for quarter horse tracks has been turned back by the industry and yet they keep talking about what a great thing it is for the State of Nebraska. These same horses in some cases could be running at some of those tracks. And so what I'm saying is that, you know, once before I did support what was at that time, and I think I asked you then, does this include the quarter horse industry, privately and you told me "no". I supported them once with the exclusion of the quarter horse tracks. This time I'm saying that I don't think I can extend my good will to say, yes, the second time around I'm going to exclude the track that's in my district and support the other tracks when they're obviously and on purpose eliminating the quarter horse tracks. So, for that reason, I'm not going to be able to support this time around unless I can get my amendment to your amendment and I might try that. Thank you. Yes, you can have my time.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Smith, I think we all recognize, whether they're quarter horse or thoroughbred horses in Nebraska, they add to the economy in some way, either through breeding or through being raised here in Nebraska and raced here in Nebraska. So, from the standpoint of opposing your amendment or not voting for it, I think we all recognize that there is a relationship between the quarter horse and the thoroughbred racing industry in Nebraska. The only problem I have is Senator Schellpeper just came down and said, well, how about if I define what you want to do, give 1 percent to the tracks and 1 percent to the purses. I'm just afraid we're going to start paring off what was ultimately the goal of providing 2 percent to the purses, but I'd be more willing I guess to support your amendment, Senator, than maybe the one that Senator Schellpeper I think has filed, but we'll just see how the debate goes here. I'm trying to do what I think is hopefully good for the overall industry of horse racing in Nebraska, recognizing that, as gambling does grow, it does have an impact on other forms of gambling that are also in effect or have...this is probably our senior kind of gambling in Nebraska.

SENATOR SMITH: And I appreciate your comments, Senator.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Clerk.