

to have your own deposit there. And the Racing Commission would have jurisdiction over the licensing and operation of all telephonic wagering and the teleracing facilities. And, with that, I will stop and I'll let Senator Schmit explain the bill a little further. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Madam President, and thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Schellpeper has done an excellent job of explaining the amendments to the bill which, in effect, become the bill. The bill is an attempt, ladies and gentlemen, to take advantage of the new electronic systems which we have in effect today which were not available to us when racing was in its infancy more than 50 years ago. We all know that the thoroughbred industry is a huge industry in the State of Nebraska, has made substantial contributions to the state and to the communities in which the tracks are located. Senator Robak and I share the facility at Columbus. It is in her district, but it is in Platte County and we jointly, I believe, like to claim sponsorship of that track, but because of that we have interest in that very fine sport facility. It's also true that two members of the Hall of Fame come from Columbus, Nebraska, M.H. VanBerg and his son, Jack, and those gentlemen have done much to contribute to racing in the State of Nebraska. What we're trying to do is to place thoroughbred racing in a position where it is more competitive with other types of activity that is commensurate with a sporting activity and, very frankly, with gambling activity. It is true that racing has fallen upon some hard times in recent years because of competing types of activity in the gaming area. We know that today keno shares the facilities at Ak-Sar-Ben Race Track and we think it is probably good for both keno and racing and for the community which hosts the operation. We are, of course, concerned that there may be some legal questions relative to telephonic wagering and to the teleracing facilities, but the only way in which those will be resolved is to enact this bill into law and give it an opportunity to be tested, if necessary, through the court system. We think that, if necessary, there needs to be any additional change in the Constitution or in the statute, we can come back and do that. hat there are opinions which hold that this type of But we think there are options which hold that this type of activity does fall within the original definition of racing activity conducted at the track. There are, of