

that is that we're starting to...we're adding another group that can veto a plan for telercacing and telephonic wagering in Nebraska where there is a significant, I believe, overlap between the membership of the Breeders Association and of the Horsemen and I guess it just seems to be another roadblock that's being placed, in effect to block, perhaps, a method of wagering that could be used to help salvage the horse racing industry in Nebraska, an industry that admittedly has gone through some hard times over the last five or six years. So I guess to the extent that we allow vetoes that could scuttle a potential system that could do, not only the horsemen and the tracks but also the breeders in the long run, some good would cause me some concern. Thank you.

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

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members, I could go either way on this amendment and normally I would support the Chairman of the committee because I prefer, in some ways, to throw fewer roadblocks in the path of an expanded operation in parimutuel racing. However, I have visited with Senator Rod Johnson about this amendment and I do know many of the breeders personally and I would have to say that perhaps the breeders themselves are most likely the ones who ought to be most interested in the growth and expansion of the industry and the health of the industry and so, although I do not believe, and I think Senator Rod Johnson would agree, that it is not fatal to the bill if this amendment does not get on the bill. I think it just recognizes that the breeders are really number one in maintaining a very viable, active, aggressive thoroughbred industry in the state. I have great respect for the trainers and the jockeys and the owners, but many of them do live outstate, but breeders live in the state, they reside here, they operate their facilities here, they buy their feed and grain, they spend their money here, they're born and raised and die here and I would concur with Senator Rod Johnson whose constituents are my long time friends from the rural area, very successful thoroughbred breeders, and I, out of deference to Senator Johnson, I very much do support the amendment. I think it will not hurt the bill and it gives a voice to the individuals and the entity which, in my opinion, are probably most important to furtherance of the thoroughbred industry and racing within this state. So I would hope you would support it and I think, I've not had a chance to talk to Senator Schellpeper about it. I appreciate his interest in defending