

January 9, 1992 LB 718

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would suggest, Senator, that the Racing Commission has, in the past, exercised extreme prudence in how they handled this type of activity. I do not see that that would be a problem. I am sure that if the Racing Commission felt that the City of Blair did not want an off-track facility in their city that they would not place one there, and if it's necessary, if it will get your support for the bill, I'd be glad to provide for this, let the city veto it if you wanted to. Wouldn't make any difference to me because I...

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yeah. Yeah, I think it ought to be in there. I think the city ought to be able to veto it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I think there will be plenty of communities that will take the facility if and when it becomes law.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. You will do that then, is that correct?

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, but I'll support the amendment if you want to draw it.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, just a couple of comments relative to Senator Nelson's concerns about the proliferation of gambling. I guess, obviously, I've not been a big proponent of expanding gambling in Nebraska, but, on the other hand, when it deals with the horse racing industry I suppose we could repeal the laws that we passed here recently for telecasting the races, we could not pass this bill and we can go back to the old way that we used to run horse racing in Nebraska. But if you look at the attendance figures, you look at the mutuel handle, I don't know how long horse racing would survive in Nebraska, quite frankly, and there are a lot of jobs and a lot of people out there, a lot of employment opportunities out there that will go down the tubes. We are trying, I think, to move the horse racing industry ahead technologically wise to not only draw players but also to move them ahead with technology that comes available. And Senator Bohlke asked me just a moment ago about how do we know what kind of person that is that's on the other end of the phone calling in to wager. Well, I don't know if we can regulate that any more than we