

ago there were many, many of the present facilities and much of the equipment that we use today was not even in existence, were almost down to the point where we held a rope across the track. Today, we have taken advantage of the technology that is available to make it more honest, to make it more attractive, to make it more exciting. I agree with Senator Nelson, I agree with her most of the time on most issues that to the extent possible we like to see people go to the track. We like to see them enjoy the spirit of racing and the excitement of racing. There is a point, however, that we must decide whether or not the vendor, the food vendor, the liquor vendor, the tobacco vendor, the parking lot vendor is more important than the breeder, and I think that that is important. I recall the very bitter fights we had when we first talked about simulcasting, when Nebraska was king of gambling in this area because we had the only really good thoroughbred facilities in the area. We thought no one could compete with us. I recall a time when I went to Omaha and met with some fine folk and suggested that we build a dog track in Nebraska, and I don't like dog tracks, but anyway we were almost run out of town and we were told that there would never be dog racing in this part of the country. At that time, myself and my colleagues who were down there, one or two who are in the Rotunda right now, told them there would one day be a dog track in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and we were ridiculed. One of the senators from Iowa told me nothing concerns people of Nebraska as much about the morals of Iowans as the talk of a dog track and, sure enough, that was true, that lo and behold those Iowa legislators, free and easy spirits whom they are, went ahead and built it and provided and allowed for a dog track to be built in Council Bluffs and they took the wind out of our sails and we have been suffering here ever since. Kansas City folks built a horse track. Oklahoma built a horse track. Up in Minneapolis they built a horse track, and Nebraska must scramble for the business. I think that the industry has done well to fight off the competition, not only from competing horse tracks, dog tracks, but from other kinds of gaming. We're going to see a proliferation of that kind of gaming and it's going to be tough in the months and years to come...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for racing to survive unless we meet the competition. We do not need to argue the moral aspects of horse racing or thoroughbred breeding nor parimutuel betting at this time. I think what it amounts to is survival. I believe that