

said earlier, over the years when individual breeders, horsemen, tracks came to this Legislature with suggestions as to how to enhance and preserve and improve the thoroughbred industry and racing in Nebraska. Time, after time, after time those suggestions were repudiated and we were told, no, that's negative. Well, ladies and gentlemen, all of a sudden the thoroughbred industry, which had grown to a hundred and fifty million dollar industry in this state, began to hit the skids, and so what do we do? An industry which had formerly generated five to seven million dollars of tax revenue for this state couldn't pay any taxes and so we forgave the tax, and we did other things to enhance the tracks' ability to survive. In effect, this state today and for the last several years, has not had the substantial tax revenue we used to enjoy. Why? Because people who felt they had to protect someone who didn't want to go to the track said, no, no, no, no, we can't do that. Well, ladies and gentlemen, it makes no real difference to me as an individual whether thoroughbred racing survives in Nebraska or not. But I think as a legislator, I and the rest of us have an obligation that as long as it is legal, as long as it is conducted legally and honorably and morally, we ought not to place road blocks in its way that would defeat its ability to survive against competing forms of gaming and, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I think we ought to take a look at those other methods which could allow it to compete in today's modern world. I think that you will find that this is one method which may add a little bit of excitement, a little bit of market, a little bit of additional interest to an industry which needs it and I would hope that you would support the bill and vote for its advancement.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. We will now vote on the motion to advance LB 718. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President, I would ask for a call of the house, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Motion has been made to place the house under call. We will have a machine vote. Those in favor please vote yes, those opposed no. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 22 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The house is under call. All members who are