

Hastings, which is a quarter horse racetrack, to get them some dates which the Racing Commission has given them some dates, but they need this money, obviously, to be able to operate a racing meet this year. And I realize that we have two industries here, the thoroughbred industry and the quarter horse industry, both feeding off of an industry that has, obviously, had some financial problems. And as I said in the committee to the members of the committee, you know, it is sort of like having two patients and not enough medicine to cure both of them. But the fact of the matter is, we have to recognize that the quarter horse people at least...have at least one more year to try and prove that they can race in Nebraska. I believe last year they had both the track in Broken Bow I believe, and also in Hastings trying to get some racing dates. They did but, unfortunately, they could not get the horses at that time. I have been assured now by the quarter horse people that they are going to do a limited racing schedule in Nebraska, only at Hastings at Queen City Downs, for a selected number of dates, and try and see if they can't bring back the quarter horse racing industry here in Nebraska, or at least make it profitable where they could operate. If you have gut the fund, you basically assure that the quarter horse folks will not be able to race in Nebraska. What I am saying is, let's leave the small track fund, and under this amendment, you leave the small track fund as it is, and you deal with the tax on admission, changing that from thirty cents to forty cents; basically, the idea there being it will raise revenue for the Racing Commission so that they can have the funds that they need to operate but you leave the small track fund in place and, basically, allow them to have a shot at racing this year. That is really what they are after, and I will try and answer some questions if I can, if you have any, but I will be very up front with you, this whole amendment is based on the fact that we are trying to give the quarter horse folks in Nebraska at least one more year to prove that they can make a go of it in the state and, basically, leave the small track fund in place. That is the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I will now recognize Senator Schellpeper, followed by Senators Bohlke and Will. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. I am going to oppose this amendment. If you will look at the racing industry and really look where this money comes from, the quarter horses are not putting anything into this small track