

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...a so-called public interest might be involved that environmental problems may not be scrutinized quite as closely as if a private individual owned the property, thus the property problem might escape detection for a period of time and when it did surface, in later years, could prove to be not only an embarrassment for the county, but a very serious expense. Having shown livestock at the Ak-Sar-Ben field 50 years ago, I know there used to be much less concern paid to the disposal of animal waste and other products that we use in livestock feeding and showing than there is today. And so I would hope that the county will be absolutely certain that there is no environmental problem...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...on the facility prior to the time they take it over and determine who shall be responsible in the event that such pollution does exist.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I'll now recognize the senators in the following order, Senator Schellpeper, Senator Ashford, Senator Moore, Senator Landis, Senator Haberman, Senator Hartnett, and Senator Schmit. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. In 1991, there was \$308,000 paid by the taxes from the horse racing industry in Nebraska. Now I think if...with this amendment, they will continue to be paid in 1992 and all future years. So that's \$308,000 that came into the state General Fund. Now the horse racing industry is going through some very rough times right now. Horse racing used to be king in Nebraska, was by far the largest industry as far as betting in the whole state. Last year the pickle industry is now the king in Nebraska. There was about 120 some million dollars bet on the pickle industry; there was about \$111,000 bet in the horse racing industry. So horse racing is no longer the king of the gambling industry in Nebraska. And I think this amendment is needed so that the horse racing industry are able to operate and try to keep the industry going. It isn't just the race tracks, it's the whole horse racing industry. It's a very large industry. There's a lot of breeders and trainers and owners in Nebraska. This bill or this amendment will keep that industry going for them. So it's a very important amendment, as Senator Will has stated. Even though the State of Nebraska is going to lose some dollars