

Committee. This has been an issue that's continually been discussed. The state of the racing industry is something that's come before the Revenue Committee again and again, the need to give them some financial assistance in the form of lower tax rates, tax exemptions, because they simply, as an industry, have not done nearly as well as they did in the mideighties, or they thought they would have done over the last few years even. Frankly, the reason...and he also makes a very good point that we don't have numbers on this. You know, I've been throwing out some estimates that are just ball park estimates in my own mind for what I understand of the taxing structure. But there's a good reason we don't have numbers, and that's because the numbers that we've had in the past have been so far from accurate, and the reason for that is that we did not foresee the fact that a dog track was going to be opening up in Council Bluffs, we did not foresee race tracks opening in Minnesota, in Des Moines, in Kansas City. We simply did not foresee a lot of the things that have come to have an impact on the thoroughbred racing industry. We still don't know what the impact that keno has is. There may be some significant impact there, the fact that someone could go to a keno parlor any day of the week, as opposed to going to a horse race track at a specific location. So the fact that there are numbers certainly should be something that we need to be concerned about. But the fact is we couldn't have numbers, there's no way of knowing. We don't know what state racing is going to be in in 1994. We don't know what the numbers are going to be like. Obviously, I think if racing is in good shape we can come back, we can change the law any given year. We can say, okay, thoroughbred racing, you're doing a lot better now and you can afford to pay more taxes. But I think the more responsible thing to do right now, when we're at a period of upheaval in the industry, when we have a new ownership taking place with respect to the largest track in the state, the best thing we can do is freeze tax levels where they are right now to provide some stability, some reasonable revenue expectations for the owners of these tracks, not only to facilitate Douglas County, but to facilitate live racing across the state, because, as I said before, horse racing has had a favored position among gambling in Nebraska, and the reason for that is because it's agriculturally related. And it's agriculturally related not because of the hay that we sell the horses, well partially because of that, because the horses themselves are an agricultural product. They are owned by people that are engaged in agriculture by definition, they have a horse, that's an agricultural product. That horse races, that