

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

horse makes them money. That's why we favor live racing in Nebraska, that's why we've been so careful about embarking on our simulcasting experiments, because without live racing, as far as I'm concerned, without live racing horse racing loses its favored status among gambling in Nebraska. And we ought to look at some other alternatives that are going to make money for the state as opposed to individuals out there that own race tracks. That's why we need this bill, that's why we need this amendment, the Hall amendment that freezes the tax levels right where they are today to provide some reasonable revenue expectations for the tracks of the State of Nebraska. Senator Haberman mentioned the opposition that was there at the hearing, characterizing the hearing as Douglas County versus...

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WILL: ...elements of the horse racing industry. That opposition, at this point, is gone. This has been worked out. The racing industry, except for the quarter horse people because of the failure of the Rod Johnson amendment, I'm sure, but the racing industry in general supports this bill at this point, they support this amendment. I think that if we're going to...if we're going to provide Douglas County with what they need, what they say they need in order to operate that race track, and that is the flexibility that LB 1061 provides, the final key to that is the adoption of the Hall amendment to freeze tax levels at the current level and to provide those tracks with some stability for the next few years while we stop and see whether racing can get back on its feet and, at that point, pay a little more taxes. I would urge your support for the Hall amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. The speaking order now is Senator Schmit, Moore, Ashford, Nelson, and Schellpeper. Senator Schmit. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Madam President. Now, if Senator Will is still here, we can continue our dialogue that we had on my last time. I heard you mention you've got some better figures now as far as the cost. I was out in the hall. Did you...

SENATOR WILL: Senator Moore, I was just kind of doing some