

for the racing industry. They did a lot for racing in Nebraska. And I would assume that there is some value granted toward the Van Berg name since I noticed that he has been asked, Jack has been asked to serve on the Board of Directors, I believe, in an advisory capacity in the operation of the Douglas County race track. My concern is that if we begin to tax thoroughbreds as personal property in this state and we do not tax them in additional...in adjoining states, what will happen to the thoroughbred industry in this state that so many of us fought so hard for for so long so that we would allow them to continue to operate? A thoroughbred is not like a plow horse, it's not like old Tony that I ride on the farm, worth five or six hundred bucks. A thoroughbred is worth sometimes millions. I would assume that if we are to tax thoroughbreds on a personal property basis, that we will see very quickly an outmigration of the thoroughbred horse industry from this state, to the detriment of this state. This is why I'm going through these amendments one by one by one. It may be boring. It may be something which is repetitious to some of you and interesting to others. But the facts are that points are being raised that are never raised in the ordinary course of debate upon a bill. And the question as to how you handle the taxing of thoroughbreds...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...ought to be of concern to a county such as Douglas which must rely upon an adequate stable of thoroughbreds if they're going to be successful in their operation. A little track called Prairie Meadows at Des Moines was paid for by a government entity and is now closed. It would be unfortunate if by unfair treatment of the thoroughbred industry the Douglas County board would get into difficulty as a result of the unfair and not...lack of uniformity in the tax program of livestock. I suggest we support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. All of this demonstration that we're going through is to show what it means and why we should stay in step with the customs of the area and our surrounding states, to at least some extent. It's like, I would guess, being a boot in the army. You learn to march and handle your rifle and you learn to step in step. If you don't, you're never going to go anywhere. And it's happening right here today. If we don't recognize the disadvantage that this