

or his questions were very good questions. I don't think anyone has any concern what's the matter with the quarter horse or thoroughbred no more than if it's a Holstein or a jersey cow, that's not the point. The quarter horse tracks, it's just been very difficult to maintain as many tracks as we have now in the State of Nebraska. No other...as Senator Schellpeper said, no other state does. What we're going to do is we're going to try to support...to fund money from tracks now that the larger tracks are the tracks that are trying to make a decent track and an entity that still can continue. And if we want to fund off and support a little bit here and a little bit there, I look at it as a duck. You keep plucking feathers from that duck and for a little bit here and a little bit there and pretty soon that duck cannot fly. And that is the same thing on this particular situation. I have nothing against the quarter horse or the quarter horse people. But why we continue to subsidize something that let's be realistic, it isn't going to happen. They didn't have enough funds. They didn't have enough people last year, did not have enough horses come into the state, that they could operate and in no way am I beating them down, but let's be realistic, it just isn't going...it just isn't possible to support all the tracks that we have right now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in support of the first part of the Schellpeper amendment. It seems we've gotten ahead of ourself in starting to debate the quarter horse issue when we don't really have it before us, and I think Senator Nelson makes some very good points about the state of the industry. We have a horse racing industry in Nebraska that consists of both thoroughbred and quarter horse racing, or at least consisted of that until the quarter horses quit running, and the fact is that even the thoroughbred end of the industry, which is the healthy end, the relatively healthy part, is not in real good shape. The quarter horse part of the industry is in much worse shape. And I think we have to realize that we better focus our dollars as far as support of racing goes. We better focus it on the part of the industry that has a chance of surviving. But beyond that, we'll have that debate on another amendment, I'm sure, but bear in mind that this part of the Schellpeper amendment simply statutorily recognizes the fee structure that supports the Racing Commission itself. It would codify those fees and would make the Racing Commission come to the Legislature when it