

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion fails and I'll recognize Senator Bohlke, followed by Senators Haberman, Nelson and Schellpeper.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Madam President, members. I wanted to rise to speak to some of the statements made by Senator Schellpeper. He pointed out that it would be a wrong direction to go to open a track at Hastings when we're so close to Grand Island. Senator Schellpeper, we have a track in Hastings. The problem is we don't have the horses there to run it because we can't allow...because there's no quarter horse racing, and last year was the year that we didn't have the quarter horse racing. Prior to that, when we did, you also mentioned that it would be a real threat as to the viability of the Grand Island Fonner Park and I don't think that...I'm sure Senator Nelson's aware and I think I'm aware that never has there ever been a concern by Fonner Park that quarter horse racing at Hastings was really cutting into their profitability. I think the people are two different crowds and so I thought it was necessary to point out that we already have a track there, Senator Schellpeper. We just want the quarter horses there to run. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Abboud. Senator Abboud, I got your attention. I'd like to have you listen as I think I can explain to you the term you've been using, "good for agriculture".

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: For many, many, many years we have had the Ak-Sar-Ben people come before the Revenue Committee and they have said, we need more tax breaks; just give us another year, give us another tax break and we'll be okay. Year, after year, after year they came and got down on their hands and knees, we will not be back next year, but they always came back. They always got their revenue tax break. And they coined the phrase it's good for agriculture. That's hogwash. It's not good for agriculture. The hay doesn't come from western Nebraska. The oats don't come from western Nebraska. It's not an agriculture product, horse racing. It's not 'cause it doesn't do us any good. So that's where the phrase "good for agriculture" came from and I would like to ask you, in all sincerity, to forget that phrase. It came from the Ak-Sar-Ben people to influence senators from agricultural backgrounds who were on the Revenue Committee and that's where it came from. Ak-Sar-Ben has had