

important factors to be looking at. And maybe if it...if it's so important to this state, maybe we should take the next logical step when we find things that are very good for the state, that help industry in this state. A lot of times we promote them by providing funds from the state. There's different approaches to it. Sometimes we give outright grants right out of the General Fund. Sometimes we provide tax credits to that industry, and to determine the benefits of the horse racing industry I've asked the question, is it good for agriculture and is the industry good for the urban areas of the state, and if it is that good maybe we should be looking at a different approach to helping to support this industry. Maybe what we should do is be taking General Fund dollars and provide subsidization for these five horse racing facilities throughout the state. And with that question, I would ask that to Senator Schellpeper, if he would support an amendment which I drafted that provides for General Fund appropriations to support the horse racing industry in this state. Senator Schellpeper, if I brought in that bill, would you support it, that amendment?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: No, I don't think that I would. I think it's better if the industry pays their own taxes. Rather than to come in and try to use state dollars, I would sooner that the industry would continue like they have been, paying dollars. Last year, Ak-Sar-Ben paid about a hundred and sixty-some thousand dollars in actual tax money to the state. I think whenever you start subsidizing racetracks with state tax dollars you're headed down a very narrow path and a path that I really could not support.

SENATOR ABOUD: Well, Senator, Senator Schellpeper, would you support an amendment to this that would provide that these local racetracks should not be charged any property taxes by local government?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I don't think they pay property tax right now, Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay, so...

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: They're all nonprofit in Nebraska.

SENATOR ABOUD: They don't pay taxes to local...

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: They don't pay...