

March 31, 1992 LB 1061

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Senator, I would be very happy if we could hold even where we are at right now. I think if Douglas County brings in this new manager, if they cut some of their overhead, that they will be able to break even or to at least try to make a little money. But if we do not give them this tax break,...

SENATOR ABOUD: Um-hmm.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...I think there is a great possibility that the whole racetrack and the whole racing industry could go under in Nebraska.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. Last year a number of cities throughout the State of Nebraska donated approximately a half a million dollars to the horse racing industry in this state, and this year it will probably total close to a million dollars donated to horse racing in the state. This money is currently being held in escrow. Do you feel that the horse racing industry needs this subsidization of nearly a million dollars every year in order to continue to operate in this state?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, I do. If you will...I think there is only so many dollars that can be spent for gambling, Senator, and it is approximately about 100 and...or about 225 million dollars bet in Nebraska on gambling, about 225 to 250 million each year.

SENATOR ABOUD: So they are going to continue to need this million dollar subsidization every year in order to operate?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Well, as I said, there is only so many dollars, and if you are going to put 100 million into keno or lottery, that is going to be less for horse racing, but you need to also figure what the horse racing industry does for this state, how many people they employ compared to...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...the other forms of gambling.

SENATOR ABOUD: I have one final question, Senator Schellpeper. When a horse is going down that track at Ak-Sar-Ben and it slips and it falls and it breaks its right front leg, what do you do to it?