

takes, or the amendment that is before us takes 25 percent of this Small Track Fund to be distributed to the commission to be used for the expenses of the commission. Now this is, what my amendment does is reinstate the 15 percent of the fund that will be distributed monthly to the language which is stricken which is racetracks which conduct wagering on quarter horse racing. I would reinstate the 15 percent for quarter horse racing and the amendment would give the 10 percent increase, the 10 percent of the fund to the commission to be used for the expenses of the commission. As it is now under 1061, the commission will get 25 percent of this quarter horse fund for, or 25 percent of the fund shall be distributed to the commission for expenses of the commission. Some of you may have read the report by the auditor. Someone passed out this morning a news article which says racing officials say report not damaging, report not damaging. I guess I beg to disagree. There are ten items in the auditor's report where he takes issue with the method under which the commission has been operating and now they say they need more money, 100 and...well take \$94,000 from the quarter horse racing tracks and \$62,950 from the thoroughbred tracks. Maybe it's justified, I don't know. I don't think it is. The auditor's report says that there are three new positions have been created, three new people have been filled by the Racing Commission even though the number of tracks and the number of the amount of the handle, the amount of attendance has gone down. Well what they're doing is actually taking the money from the tracks for administrative purposes. Certainly one of those new positions is needed. That has to do with simulcasting, but they've hired a veterinarian which may or may not be needed which should not...the situation as I see it has not changed the reason for a veterinarian is no greater now than it has been in the past and then another person has also been hired. I don't think this should be allowed to continue, but I know where...I'm a realist, I realize where the votes are, that the people out behind the glass have the situation well under control and so I see that there is not a lot of reasons for me to continue this hopeless task of trying to put what I think is some responsibility into the operation of the Racing Commission, therefore, I withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is withdrawn. Before we proceed I would like to call the senators' attention to the area under the south balcony. Special guests this afternoon of Senator Joyce Hillman are Beth and Jerry McKibbon of Excelsior, Minnesota. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to