

was being held in escrow. And we've talked about this on the floor today dealing with this particular issue. We estimate it will be in the neighborhood of a million dollars, maybe more, that will be going directly to horse breeders. Now is this a lot of money? Is this a lot of money that they are taking from the cities? Yes, it is. It's an awful lot of money. The City of Ralston is impacted by this because it takes 2 percent of the gross proceeds. We're not talking about 2 percent of what the city makes, we're talking about 2 percent of the handle, the amount of money which is generated. Now the City of Ralston, or the City of Omaha or the City of Columbus or Denton or Doniphan did not take 10 percent of the gross proceeds or 20 percent of the gross proceeds. They take a percentage of the net. So when you start talking about gross proceeds, you're talking about a phenomenal amount of money, a lot of money for a small community that is trying to make ends meet. We're talking about a community that tries to take care of their people, not about an industry that is dying. And as a long time supporter of the horse breeders, a long time supporter of Ak-Sar-Ben, a long time supporter of the five horse tracks around this state, it makes me a bit discouraged to see that we're helping...that they chose as they were going down with the ship to grab onto anything that they could to try to bolster up their industry. Maybe they will survive. Who knows? You've heard supporters of this bill today of LB 1061 not give you one guarantee that with all the benefits we have given them with this particular bill that we have one chance and a very small chance of seeing this industry turn around and I guess I'd be discouraged as well because for years they have come in and they have said, we need additional funds to keep the horse racing industry alive in this state. And since 1985, when they had a total handle of about \$213 million, they have consistently seen their handle drop and drop and drop until at this 1991 they had a total handle of about \$114 million. Now I believe that it is really a good question as to this point in time whether they are going to be around in five years or in three years and maybe they will, maybe they won't. And it's one thing to say well we're going to give you tax breaks, State of Nebraska, State of Nebraska is going to give horse breeders tax breaks to stay around, or perhaps give them a little bit less money that they have been currently taking in the form of tax proceeds. But it's another thing entirely to take General Fund money, money that will be going to directly benefit the people and give that to the industry to help subsidize it and that's where my problem is. This is currently in litigation, it is currently before the district