

SENATOR HALL: ...a two-part question. The first is one that we discussed just a second ago off the microphone and it relates to who would have the ability to operate the keno at the racetrack. I know that it would be operated for the benefit of the city, but would it be open to bid for purposes of anyone having the opportunity to bid on that keno?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, it'd be open to anybody.

SENATOR HALL: So it would not necessary be a keno operation that would go to the contractor who might have the agreement with the city?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: That's right.

SENATOR HALL: Okay.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: This amendment, Senator, basically just affects Columbus Race Track.

SENATOR HALL: Right, and I understand that, and I appreciate that. The second part of the question is, is there a requirement built into the amendment that says that it has to be done with the approval of the horsemen?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: No.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, that is not in there. I just...I wanted to spell that out for the record as well. Thank you very much, Senator Schellpeper. I appreciate that. I rise in support of the entire amendment. I know that the horsemen, for purposes of this section of the amendment, when the 2 percent, because of the Supreme Court decision, they were supportive of keno at licensed racetrack facilities, but once the 2 percent was no longer being escrowed, wasn't going to be available because of the court's decision, their support for other gambling revenues at local racetracks fell off. Actually, those of you who were here remember back to when that amendment was put on by Senator Rod Johnson. That was the reason that the horse racing industry, at least the breeders and trainers could support increased gambling at that time was because they were going to share in the proceeds at least at those racetrack facilities where they had to compete for the gambling dollars. Because of the court decision, that is no longer the case. I am guessing that they will fall back to their original position, which is to