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FLOOR DEBATE

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there might be a different definition for it, but it's gambling. The city of Omaha prospered from Grand Island...or from the Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack. Another thing that it did at that time was use a lot of our agricultural products. Those horses had to be fed. It was a heck of a lot of oats and a heck of a lot of hay that went down to Ak-Sar-Ben every summer. And the crowds they used to have there were tremendous. You couldn't find a parking lot. They'd have to park them inside of the track. It was a gem for Omaha. Well, those things went by the wayside. And what really, what really put the crimp to the horse racing industry in this state was the advent of the casinos across the river. Good or bad, they're there. And that killed one of the most important things we had in this state. Countless numbers of scholarships that Ak-Sar-Ben gave to our young people. Well, Senator Hall was getting pounded on the same way that Senator Schimek is getting pounded on now. But I believe that the horse racing industry does need to be a part of this. It does need its day in court. If this is the right way to go, not sure. Basically, I don't think it...well, I'll say it, I don't think it's the right way to go. And you look at our state lottery. Like it or not, it's here. It was put on the ballot. People voted for it. It's there, but it can be changed. Our lottery can be changed. We could eliminate it, if we wanted to. I don't mind locking the racetracks into the constitution.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: I'd much rather see it put in there legislatively, so that if we get to the point where that is not...who knows what's going to happen 20 years down the road? But I think we should have the option in this body of controlling that. Senator Schrock, I am going to support your amendment, because I believe it's the right thing to do. Hopefully, we can bring the racing industry back to Nebraska where it was 20 years ago. I don't know whether it's possible, but nothing is possible unless you try. So with that, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Senator Schrock, I will be supporting your amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Erdman.