

January 13, 1976

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. That is the amendment that I am asking you to adopt.

PRESIDENT: Any discussion. The question is the adoption of Senator Chambers amendment to amend. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: The amendment to the amendment is adopted.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, members of the Legislature, the Committee amendment becomes the bill. It is designed to give, to levy a penalty against those who engage in the barbarous practice of cockfighting. It also levies a penalty on those who are spectators at these barbarous affairs. If you have an audience which must pay, if it is present at this illegal activity, it will be more difficult to get an audience. During the hearing on this bill, there was a motley group of individuals from throughout the state coming down to speak against this bill because they are enthusiasts of what they call the noble sport of cockfighting. They were all sizes, shapes and descriptions and there were actually some Senators who were actually put in a degree of fear of physical attack from some of these people. As a matter of fact, there were some state troopers stationed near the hearing room. Now I have handed out some material this morning which gives you a bit of the terminology of cockfighting and there is a picture of the gaffs that are used. There is a spur that this chicken has which is cut off and a small stump is left and this gaff is attached. These happen to be the puncture variety but you can also purchase those which are very sharp and they are used for slashing. These chickens are bred for this purpose. Some fly high in the air and come down on their opponent. Others can meet them straight in the air with great force and knock him down. Others know how to sidestep and avoid a charge. Then if he is quick enough, he can sink his spur or his gaff into the other chicken's eye, his brain, or his chest. Now there is a law in Nebraska which makes cockfighting illegal as it should, but the penalty is only \$20. There is no requirement that the birds or the paraphernalia be confiscated or forfeited. That also will be required by this bill. It came as a result of a raid in Sarpy County which made it clear to all the public that this practice was going on in the state. There are game and other law enforcement officials who were in on the raid, including state officers. There was a 26 acre estate, and as it turned out, the warrant gave an address which was not the specific location of this barn where the fight occurred although the barn is on the estate, so in a technicality, the evidence seized could not be used against these individuals although they still could be charged with cruelty to animals and contributing to the delinquency of minors because there were many small children present. So on a technicality, the evidence was suppressed but the charges were not dismissed. What this bill does is