

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Is there any discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, do you wish to close? Waiving is closed...closing is waived. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Schellpeper to open on LR 24.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, Madam President and members, 24CA is the same CA or resolution that we had last year. Last year it was LR 293CA. What it does, if you will recall back, I think it's three years ago, maybe four years ago, we had LB 718 which allowed to have off-track wagering on horse racing. Well, the Attorney General stated that that was unconstitutional. And so last year we came in with a CA, 293CA, that would allow off-track betting, would allow the voters of Nebraska to vote on whether or not they wanted to allow off-track betting. The amendment, as it is...appears this morning, is exactly the same as we voted on last year. As you all know, it was stricken from the ballot last fall and this is another attempt now to put it before the voters. We had three amendments the other day, this is another one; there's still one more to follow. It's no different than what we had last year. We had a lot of discussion last year. It's just an attempt, hopefully, to help the horse racing industry and to allow people in rural outstate Nebraska to bet on horse races if they want to. But it will go to a vote of the people and I would move for the adoption of LR 24. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members, when we had a kind of a small bill on hearing impaired we started talking about the budget early, I thought maybe the precedent ought to be followed a bit on this particular issue. I opposed this proposal the last time it was submitted and will oppose it again this year. It's not that I feel that strongly about it but I feel that we have more than ample opportunity to engage in