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April 3, 2002 LR 6, 410-415

LB 687A by title for the first time.) And, Mr. President, I have a series of study resolutions: LR 410-415, all will be referred to the Executive Board. (Legislative Journal pages 1359-1363.)

Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senator Schrock, AM3294. (Legislative Journal page 1129.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on AM3294 to LR 6CA.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is the horse racing amendment. This puts us on track with Iowa, because Iowa allows slot machines at racetracks. This amendment has come somewhat important to me, because I think it's important for Nebraska. There are differences between casinos and horse racing tracks. I'd like to give you a little history of what happened in Nebraska in 1934. And I'm reading from Senator Wehrbein's blue book. The creation of a Unicameral nonpartisan Legislature passed by a vote of 286,000 to 193,000. Pari-mutuel betting authorization passed 251,000 to 187,000. Folks, the horse racing industry started in this state over 65 years ago. And, although I hear some people say the horse racing industry is dead, it seems like we were asleep at the wheel, it started up in the state of Iowa. I must confess, I enjoy seeing the horses run. I would like to go to Fonner Park once a year, but I get there about every other year. So I hope going there five times in ten years doesn't make me addicted to horse racing. But I do enjoy going there once in a while to see the horses run. Casinos compete with horse tracks. I don't think there's any question about that. But we have a dog track in Council Bluffs, and, quite frankly, they were given slot machines, if we'd have given Ak-Sar-Ben slot machines at the same time Council Bluffs got slot machines for the dog tracks, we'd still have a racetrack in Omaha. Ak-Sar-Ben would still be around, I do believe that. And I'm...I live 200 miles from Omaha, so those of you from Omaha that would comment on this, I would appreciate it. This amendment, like the previous one, says the county has to vote on it. Not only does it have to be a part of this constitutional amendment, it says the county has to vote on it. The nice thing about racetracks, horse racing