

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Thank you Senator Snyder for giving me an opportunity to talk on the actions of the Revenue Committee. I had my light punched but probably not quite soon enough. So I have not been recognized up to this time, and I'm glad that you gave me this opportunity to speak now. This body will remember that we have been raising, periodically, the paramutual tax as inflation or a needs of the state or other reasons. We have been raising the tax and last year 1973, we increased from four to five percent. That rate of paramutual the tax on paramutual betting. Now then we come back and that is a 20-25% increase. 25% increase. I would say that that was a hefty increase and this is the rates that we have been going but I don't believe that we can afford to go annually at a 25% increase on the waggerring of horse racing. We misunderstand horse racing is conducted by non-profit organizations in this state. There is no individual that you are taxing, it is the citizens of the state, and the money that is derived from the running of horses in Nebraska is up a...a...is put out for very, very good causes. Promotion of 4-H, Scholarships, and all of the other things the promotion of the county fairs and we a..a..we have not had a decline in horse racing a no. In the dollars bet, because there is more money around but we have got 25% more of the tax money and going into the state a...a...that is approximately four million dollars last year and sometimes we are going to have to recognize the fact that there comes a point of no return. I would not oppose several years down the road an increase if the time continues as they are but certainly you can not annually increase a tax by 20-25% and that is the reason that the revenue committee determined that we had...a.a.a....long discussion, there were those that opposed it and only Senator Schmit the introducer was the proponent of the legislation. Our committee did discuss it at length. The idea of increasing the tax and finally the committee action was to dispose of the bill. I hope that we do the same here today. Do not raise this bill let this be for some future action of the legislature and I would hope that we would not in any way tie in LB931 and the action of 914 they are separate and distinct issues one of them is for a race track on the ground, a facility on the ground of our state fair here and the other one is for additional revenue. So I would that this body would turn down the attempt to raise LB931.

PRESIDENT: Alright anyone else wishing to speak on the motion before Senator Schmit closes? Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Just one short comment. This debate is quite interesting to me. Now there are some in here that do not wish the better to pay more money, they state that it would be unfair to him but a few minutes ago they were not worried about the person who consumes booze paying more money. Same general public.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach, your light is still...do you wish to speak again? Anyone else wishing to speak on the motion to bring to General File LB931 notwithstanding the action of the committee? If not Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the legislature, the question is, does the state of Nebraska want to collect another one million dollars annually patronizers a...a..from those who patronize the track and who apparently do not feel