

April 3, 1974

CLERK: There are no more committee amendments.

SENATOR BURBACH: I move to advance LB914 to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cal Carsten.

SENATOR BURBACH: I have no further comments. I may have some closing remarks.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I think we're really down to one question, whether we want to continue horseracing at the Fairgrounds. The Racing Commission

(End Belt #12)

(Start Belt #13)

has given the State Fair Board fair warning that unless they improve their track and meet specifications, they will not be granted the privilege of holding the next year. And the Race Horse Association, the members that bring these horses in are saying that the track is too dangerous. The jockeys are complaining about the track as it is. It has to be improved or they will not come back. We are talking about a potential of a half a million dollars revenue for the State of Nebraska, once this track is brought up to a level where, it is safe and will draw a participation by leading horsemen and jockeys over the state. I think we are talking about whether we are going to maintain horse racing at the State Fair Grounds, or whether we are not. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Just one quick question. How come other states.. other areas in the State of Nebraska can improve their tracks keep their head up above water, at least break even, or make a profit and the State Fair Board can't operate this track and it goes in the...can't keep up the track in the second largest city in the state. Is it mismanagement or what? I'd like to have somebody answer it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Senator Syas. A state Fair operation is a costly operation. There is..are many dollars spent and a very minimum of dollars have ever been requested by the State Fair Board from the State General Fund for that operation. Iowa grants many of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the operation of their State Fair. We are not contributing. A State Fair is not on a paying basis. Local County Fairs, which are not nearly as expensive are subsidized for or by a mill levy. In the local communities. This is not the case of the Nebraska State Fair.

SENATOR SYAS: Mr. President, I asked him about the track, not about the fair. I want to know why the track isn't self supporting.

SENATOR BURBACH: There are other activities, and other ...that AK-SAR-BEN uses, Fonner uses, they use other activities for their operation of their tracks. And this track not only is a general