

April 2, 1980

LB 939

Stewards must be professional and they in effect run the race meet subject to the authority of the State Racing Commission. All of the proposed stewards must be submitted to the Racing Commission for their approval prior to the track hiring and the Racing Commission may overrule a steward's decision at any time. Most of the states have this method of hiring stewards and the reason is they must be professionals and must have a thorough knowledge of the racing industry. Senator Warner's amendment would change this and have the Racing Commission hire the stewards and the race track pay the stewards salary. The members of the racing industry oppose this provision because it could lead to political or friendship appointments of a steward without regard to qualifications. To do this could interfere greatly with the operation of the race track during the race meets and what this amendment would do would delete this portion of it. I move for the adoption of these amendments.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Are there others to speak?

SENATOR CLARK: One more.

SENATOR NEWELL: One more, why don't we let...three more, okay. Let me speak then. I support the Sieck amendment. Basically the Sieck amendment would strike the two sections that I think are incorrect and inappropriate in the Warner amendment. Now Jerry's amendment without these sections clarifies some things and it helps us straighten out the bill so we can't oppose the entire Warner amendment. We are opposing and Senator Sieck has done a very good job of explaining why we want to oppose the two sections. That one section is to raise the commission from three to five members. Now what has happened in other states is quite frankly that they have raised the number to fit the number of tracks and thereby they have this real problem with racing dates. Presently no one is happy with the racing dates. Aksarben is not happy. Lincoln is not happy. Grand Island is not happy. Atokad is certainly not happy and the problem is that, you know, there is just not enough days for everybody to race and so they can all...all the tracks can make as much money as they would like and that is a problem but raising the number of commissioners only make it a much more political problem than it presently is. I think that the commission has done an excellent job trying to balance the various interests. Aksarben would like to have more dates and I really think Aksarben ought to have more dates. Of course, I am from Omaha and if I thought the five member commission would get me more dates as others think that it

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