

April 14, 1980

LB 939

check in please? Senator Carsten, would you check in please? Maresh, would you check in please? Johnson, DeCamp, Beutler, Cope, Senator Cope, would you check in please? Senator Haberman and Newell. Senator Chambers. All right, we have them all here. Do you want a roll call vote or a call in?

CLERK: Roll call.

SENATOR CLARK: Roll call. Call the roll.

CLERK: Roll call vote taken. (See page 1860, Legislative Journal.) 18 ayes, 19 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Motion failed. What is the next motion?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Murphy moves to amend the bill. It is on page 1722. It is noted as the second Murphy amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY. I hope the sense of fairness is not totally lost in this body. Due to the fact that Fonner must race in the mud, that Atokad must race in the mud and Columbus has the shortest racing season in history, I am asking that we change the pari-mutuel tax provisions of the law as it exists today. Right now each track has an exemption of tax, the five percent tax, pari-mutuel tax on the first one million dollars. That leaves them fifty thousand dollars with which to work in order to preserve and maintain and operate those tracks. Five percent basically goes to the horsemen, five percent to the state, five to the track. Now inasmuch as we are not going to alter the adverse conditions that have been placed upon these tracks, I ask that in all fairness we alter the forgiveness on the pari-mutuel tax and raise that exemption to three million dollars. That will give them at least enough to maintain those tracks, even having to run on ice and snow and the like. In order to avoid the state having any loss, I am suggesting, I am recommending to you that we put a progressive tax on these tracks, realize if you will that the two smaller tracks have, and I have given you the figures, roughly nine million dollars in receipts. Lincoln has sixteen. Grand Island has twenty. Now compare that to Ak-Sar-Ben who turned ninety-nine million dollars in handle last year. That gives them ten million dollars to work with. If we impose a progressive tax, it certainly will not hurt them and the additional forgiveness for the smaller tracks may