

March 22, 1982

LB 631, 845

pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read the record vote as found on pages 1341 and 1342 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 44 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 845 passes with the emergency clause attached. The next bill, LB 631, requires a motion, and the Chair recognizes Senator Hefner for purposes of that motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner and VonMinden would move to suspend Rule 8, Section 5, so as to permit consideration of LB 631 on Final Reading today.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members, I move to suspend Rule 8, Section 5 so that we can read on Final Reading LB 631. And I will try to be brief in telling you why we want to suspend this rule. This bill changes the taxing provision for horse racing in Nebraska. This bill will reduce pari-mutuel tax receipts in Nebraska by \$200,000. Our rules say that whenever we have a bill that causes a reduction in tax receipts, the bill shall be considered with the other A bills. But here is our problem. Atokad is trying to gear up for their racing season which starts the latter part of April, in fact, just about 30 days. Contracts are ready to be signed for the use of the tote machine and the starting gate and concession stands, and I could go on and on, and also employees need to be hired. But without this bill, Atokad will not have a racing season. So we need to pass this bill today. And let me summarize this bill and explain it to you just briefly. Last year the Racing Commission changed the racing dates. They provided Omaha and Lincoln race tracks with extra racing days, removing the fall dates from Atokad. This was good for everyone except Atokad. It was good for the State of Nebraska because we took in \$1.4 million more from pari-mutuel tax receipts. This bill exempts the pari-mutuel tax on the first \$5 million to those tracks racing three days or less. So we end up with \$200,000 less in tax receipts. But overall...overall, we gain \$1.2 million in pari-mutuel tax receipts. At the present time the race meet is on in Grand Island. Their receipts are up and if this continues across the state like this, we will not have any deficit at all. We will pick up that extra \$200,000. Like I said before, we need this bill today instead of waiting, and without this bill Atokad will not have a race meet this year. We need 30 votes to suspend the rules to take