

to two different winners of the Pick-6 at Ak-Sar-Ben. There are some things that are right about taxation and some things that are wrong about taxation. I can guarantee you that if this Legislature sees fit to erode this tax base for the race tracks and the horsemen, as they like to call themselves, it would make an enormous mistake. As far as I'm concerned it is equivalent to reducing the beer tax by 50 percent because we've got to promote the industry because that is a good, healthy industry. Now it's a gambling industry we are talking about, don't mince any words about it. We've never seen fit to keep gambling taxes low. We keep them at a respectable level so we can raise the revenue. If folk want to gamble, they want to have that kind of nonprofit business, then they ought to pay the tax. It as simple as that. Now the bill that Senator Conway brought to us and Senator Hefner brought to us was one designed to help out the small track, Atokad and Columbus in particular. But that great big giant in the sky, Ak-Sar-Ben, decided it would snag itself onto this bill and try to lower, try to lower the rate of taxation and charge the state \$1.5 million in the process. That is only next year, that is only next year. That simply ought not to occur. That big track tells us they are fearful of competition. They then point out what the parimutuel tax rates are in other states on these new tracks that are going to come into existence in the next several years. What they don't tell you is that those tracks, a lot of them, are going to be subjected to property taxes. What they don't tell you is that there are a whole host of other kinds of taxes that those tracks are likely to pay.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: They simply use this small track bill as an opportunity, as an opportunity to advance their own cause of feathering their own nest by \$1.5 million at the expense of all the taxpayers in our state.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, more than ten years ago I appeared before the Revenue Committee, increased the tax on parimutuel betting from four to five percent. I did it in response to a commitment I had made to finance the drug abuse program for the State of Nebraska from increased revenues on gambling. That drug