

abuse program was subsequently viewed with some concern. At the same time that we were talking about that, this Legislature in this state was in the same kind of budget constraints we are today. The sitting Governor at that time saw fit to not approve that drug abuse program. However, we did, very successfully, raise the tax from four to five percent, raised about an additional \$1 million at that time. A year later I thought, well, that went pretty good, I'm going to come back and raise it from five to six. Some gentlemen visited with me and explained to me that this was not supposed to happen. And I thought, well, it went so easy last year, I'm going to try it again anyway, I guess I was feeling my oats a little bit, and I offered the motion, offered the bill. Now, ladies and gentlemen, by the time the dust cleared away I felt like I'd been standing on the track when a 12 horse field came down along the rail and all 12 marched across my back. It took me weeks to recover. But I learned then and there that you don't get very much done in the area of taxation on certain kinds of gambling unless you have the acquiescence of certain people. Kind of interesting, we talk about the Hefner and the Conway bill to help out the small tracks. Well, I was carrying those bills before Hefner and before Conway were in this Legislature. I had one this year. It was a bill to truly assist the small tracks. Well, unbeknownst to me, ladies and gentlemen, the morning of the hearing I get the word that the agreement has been reached. The agreement that was reported to me would have made the most die-hard gambler at the Ak-Sar-Ben track blush. It was a proposal to totally exempt the first \$10 million and then to lower the tax from five to three on the balance. Yes, Atokad is going to pick up 40 to 50 grand, Columbus is going to pick up 100 grand or so. My good friends at Ak-Sar-Ben are going to pick up about \$4 million. Now, Senator Chizek, you are new here, but you've been around a long time and you know that that is the usual proportion, \$40,000 for South Sioux City, \$4 million for Ak-Sar-Ben, a little more generous than they usually are. The point I want to make is this, we've been looking under every rock, behind every tree, behind every signboard to try to raise a few bucks this year. All of a sudden, as I recall, before the Revenue Committee there was a proposal for a task force. The task force said we're going to come up with some kind of a solution to the problem of racing in general. I think the bill, as it stands today, is a reasonable bill without the Senator DeCamp amendment. I am not opposed to giving tax relief to anyone if it can be