

aid. Yesterday and Friday we cut ADC payments to the unborn. We have refused to pass a bill that raises ADC payments, although they are needed. We raised taxes on business in LB 715. We are on the verge of cutting the University. Even if we don't cut the University, we are to the point where we are not giving them the type of increase that many people think that they probably do need. Even though Marge Higgins doesn't and I may question that, we are not treating the University very fairly this year. The homestead exemption bill is going to be coming up in the near future, \$18 million of property tax relief we promised our citizens in the state last year. Although I am going to vote in favor of 727, I really question whether the votes are going to be there to do it. We are not funding mental health and alcoholism programs. We ended the solar tax exemption with LB 273 and we are even to the point now where we are threatening our state employees with no pay increase for next year. This is not a good time. This is not the time to come in and look at one particular industry, horse racing, and favoring them with a tax break. Even though the tax break may not go into effect this year, we should not be passing this type of an amendment onto a bill this year. I ask you, along with Senator Rupp and Senator Schmit and other members, to reject this amendment. Let's go ahead and read this bill today and let's get on with our business of making these incredibly painful, negative types of decisions that we have to make on our tax rates and on our spending programs. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I still have 9 lights on. Senator Harris, then Senator Conway, then Senator Lundy. Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, when we were considering this amendment on this bill last week, I pointed out that this is a very important industry. I won't go into the details about how important it is, how many people it supports, how much money it generates for not only Ak-Sar-Ben but many areas of the state. I also pointed out that we are going to have new competition, and if you are going to have new competition, I don't care if you are in the automobile business or if you are in the horse racing business, you better get ready. And this is what this amendment proposes to do. It is very important to make this statement to the industry that we recognize that we are going to have to do some things differently. We are not on an island any more. We are not