

industry, an industry that is the single biggest taxpayer. Now this industry, like it or not, exists legally in the State of Nebraska, horse racing industry. It exists legally by a vote of the people in the Constitution of the state. That may be dumb. It may be smart. It is a fact. When you have an industry and it is your biggest taxpayer, then you should be checking to make sure you don't wound or destroy it. There are at the present time a whole bunch of new tracks coming on line with new equipment, new incentives and a better tax structure. With Sunday racing, we believe we will increase the handle at Ak-Sar-Ben alone \$20 million. That increase alone will offset the amount that all the tracks will get from this change. Remember there is not intended to be and shouldn't be any impact whatsoever this year or very minimal this fiscal year. In fact, with the increased handle, there should be more taxes. But what I am telling you is, if you let an industry get too far below the line of survival or competitiveness, you will destroy that industry. What they need to know now is that when they go out and try to attract races, horses for next year, that they have the proper incentives, that they can say, we will be having better and bigger prizes for the horsemen next year. We will be having more facilities for horses to be put here. We have this put into law. We are going to be receiving these things for prizes and for additional construction. So before you immediately say, well, by golly, we are not going to give anything to Ak-Sar-Ben, look at the entire picture, and the picture is that is your single biggest taxpayer in the State of Nebraska, that is your single biggest taxpayer. And as an industry they have sought considerably more than I am requesting here. They sought I think a 3 percent reduction in their taxes. We are giving them one-half of 1 percent. We are maintaining Lincoln's privilege status. They sought a \$10 million exemption. We are only going to give them a \$7 million under this proposal. That is what the Task Force came up with. The Task Force, yes, it consisted of some people interested in Ak-Sar-Ben and the racing industry. It consisted of like Senator Miller, who was on it, I think Senator Conway, myself. Maybe it is not everything the racing industry wants, but I think it is minimums. And so it isn't something fly-by-night that is a last minute amendment. It was worked on during most of or a good portion of the session. I would ask you to adopt the amendment or return the bill for the amendment. I think it is justified. As I say, you destroy the industry or get it