

because I wanted to see what all the commotion was about. And I learned there were nine lobbyists there for the University of Nebraska lobbying against cutting the budget 2 percent, nine lobbyists from the University, paid lobbyists, tax paid lobbyists. Today I see this little bill to help the little race tracks, or this amendment, whoever gave out the handout is what I am talking about. Senator Smith, would you please not interrupt me while I am talking. At any rate...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Please don't talk while somebody else has the floor. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...this is where I have suddenly discovered Lincoln gets the special exemption and I guess that is because poor old Lincoln has got the Fairgrounds. Poor old Lincoln gets all the tax dollars for the University. Poor old Lincoln gets all the money for their race track. Poor old Lincoln makes money off the State Capitol. Yesterday on 722 when people were supposed to be serious about cutting the budget, no one industry had as many lobbyists out there fighting against it as the University of Nebraska. Lincoln wants to pay less tax on the horse races. Lincoln wants \$20 million to pay the people of Commonwealth. Lincoln says, give me, give me, give me, give me. Those pseudo intellectuals over at UN-L have the audacity, excuse me, the proper word is "guts", to come to the Appropriations Committee and say, give me 14 percent more. And this is why I am glad this came up today so I would have an opportunity to point out what is poor old Lincoln, poor suffering Lincoln who can't afford a 2 percent cut in the University's budget, and Senator Wesely yesterday stood up and said, we don't want to do this to state employees. After last week he stood there and tried to take away their medical benefits from them. If that wasn't a kick in the head, I don't know what is. But I love this, what the money is going to do for Lincoln. Additional funds generated by this bill in Lincoln would be used to make the entire general admission area as climate controlled in cold weather as the clubhouse. Lighting the track and related facilities for twilight racing would be installed as well. The financial result of lighting would be dramatic as it would allow for a later post time, making it possible for fans to attend the races after work and still see most of the races. My God, I thought Lincoln was broke. I thought there was \$20 million lost around here.