

CLERK: 25 ayes, 11 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator DeCamp, did you wish to close, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, Ak-Sar-Ben and the tracks in Nebraska are tracks in existence. They are a machine that is producing a significant amount of revenue and behind that revenue is a very large industry in this state, an agricultural industry. I have to believe that they have made some pretty careful judgments as to how they best believe they can effectively compete. I have to also believe that overall they probably know more about the subject, what that competitive force is going to be out there, what they can produce, what their needs are in purses, than I do or maybe than some others do. The intensity they have on trying to get this accomplished in conjunction with the very obvious fact that just like recruiting football players or anything else in this type of industry, sports industry, you have to have a little bit of knowledge about the future, who your coach is going to be, what your situation is on scholarships. In the case of the horse racing industry, what they have to do to recruit people for the next season, and that is what we are talking about, the next season, is to be able to say in advance, we will have this, we will have that, and so on. Senator Wesely suggested that this is a million dollars for Ak-Sar-Ben. In fact, it is a million dollars total and hopefully it won't cost the state a penny because it will come from increased revenues, although nobody can guarantee anything and I don't pretend to. But that million dollars is split among the tracks on a pro rata basis and under the exemption portion of this the big beneficiaries are the smaller tracks. We are in a competitive mode. I guess I have to believe that as legislators we have to take a little different approach than we have for about the past ten or twelve years. In the past ten or twelve years, at least during the seventies and early eighties, we were in a mode of no matter what you did in this body, to be real honest, you couldn't go wrong because if you said there was going to be ten dollars of tax income, there ended up being twelve. Inflation made it so you could commit a lot of errors, lock in a lot of spending, tax a lot of industries and it never really appeared that you ever did anything wrong. We are now in a mode of a very tight economy and I think we have to as legislators begin looking at everyone of our industries