

and make sure that what we are doing is not killing the goose that produces the income, the finances, the babies, that finances the University, that finances all of these things, whether it be the 715s which are a significant new tax on business, whether it be the variety of other bills that impose additional new taxes or take the business as usual attitude that there is an unlimited pot of gold to be extracted from whoever is out there and have been paying taxes in the past. You will see if you don't begin approaching it from the standpoint of how is this business really going to be impacted, how much can they reasonably pay, if you don't start taking that attitude, you are going to see, it may take two or three or four years, an industry wounded, an industry destroyed, an industry that no longer is a payor and then you start trying to save them by making them on the payee end of the line.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: I would like to yield the last minute to Senator Rod Johnson.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, I just rise to, basically, reiterate what Senator DeCamp has already said. The effects would be on the agricultural industry. I think the horse racing industry has been misperceived somewhat in the fact that it is an agribusiness probably rather than a gambling industry. And I think that the horse racing industry is one that I think deserves some consideration by those of us who are from agricultural sectors of this state. You know, I believe in reading that Task Force report, it stated that almost 540 farms producing 160 acres will support about 7,000 thoroughbred horses in this state and that is about what we have in the state right now. So I think it is worthwhile for us to consider the impact that this money will make to the horse racing industry, to the horsemen themselves who are raising these horses in Nebraska and hopefully using them and racing them on the tracks of Nebraska. And because of that I think that this amendment would have a significant impact upon agriculture. It will help the horsemen, I believe, and I think that is ultimately what they need as we enter into this, as Senator DeCamp has already indicated, very tough economic time and we are all severely aware of the impact