

treatment we currently provide in the tax policy, under LB 154, is we do tend to treat the smaller tracks, Columbus and Atokad in particular, a little more favorably than the larger tracks. But it is a neutral policy in the sense that that level of favoritism, that is with the first \$7 million handle being exempted from tax, applies across the board, it applies to Ak-Sar-Ben, to Lincoln, to Atokad, to Columbus and to Fonner Park. So in the last analysis it is essentially a revenue neutral policy. Senator Warner says, though, that he is anticipating this afternoon's activities and his anticipation is that this Legislature will excise the general fund appropriation of about \$112,000 to the State Fair for its activities, and when we do that, and in addition increase in effect the parimutuel tax for the Lincoln track, we work a real hardship to the Fair. My attitude is that we ought to continue with LB 154 as currently amended. If Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee then believes that cutting out the general fund support for the Fair Board would be unconscionable, they should simply take that off the hit list. But to in a sense break ranks with what I think is a neutral tax policy, to favor a given track, is wrong. I would rather maintain a neutral tax policy. Then if you've got to provide special help to a given track because it also funds the state Fair, then we do that through general fund appropriation. So I oppose Senator Warner's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak on the Warner amendment to LB...

SENATOR DECAMP: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: No. Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Warner in this particular instance. I guess it is a matter of who is being favored as to how one views favoritism or special treatment. I think that you need to look a little further than just the tax policy, and maybe you need to look at the racing days, and the racing season, and how that has been distributed, and how that impacts, in this particular case, a racing track which additionally impacts an institution or what I view as an institution in the State of Nebraska. I think that the State Fair is as much of an institution in the State of Nebraska as the University football team. I think as it