

floor taken that kind of a step, kind of an unprecedented step and I intimated one and certainly the new chairman of the Revenue Committee needs to be commended or condemned, depending upon the point of view, for having the, I guess, audacity or courage to take that kind of a step. He mentions casually the million and a half dollars that we might lose if worst comes to worst. I've been before the Revenue Committee many times and I'd have to say that when you speak in terms much less than a million and a half Senator Johnson's eyebrows raise tremendously and I would also have to say that having watched Elroy Hefner a few times you couldn't get a million and a half dollars out of him in a tax break for people in much worse shape than the thoroughbred industry. Nonetheless, I'm probably the most, the foremost fan of the thoroughbred industry on the floor of this Legislature. I don't know that I've ever seen most of you at any of the tracks. I'm a foremost fan of Ak-Sar-Ben and I think that they have brought a lot of business and done a lot of good things for the State of Nebraska. But it's kind of inconsistent I guess that we would jump over ourselves and jump over the hoops and through the hoops to try to meet an anticipated loss. Now we have many times found people come to us, whether it be education or whether it be industry or business or professions, and say, we think this is going to happen. In fact, we have had people come to us and say, this has already happened to us and would you please take steps to hold us harmless from any further loss or would you reimburse us for losses already sustained. For the most part, for the most part during normal times this Legislature tries to address that kind of an issue. During these kind of times of short revenue usually you meet stony glazes from the appropriate legislators and go home with an empty bucket. I would suggest, I'm going to make a comment here which I don't think anyone can dispute, I would suggest that some of the steps that have been taken by Ak-Sar-Ben are going to bear fruit and that there will not be any loss of revenue notwithstanding the adverse economic times. I'll make another prediction. I will predict that the development of the competition across the river will, in fact, enhance, will, in fact, enhance the track activity at Ak-Sar-Ben. I believe and it's kind of interesting, I'm going to listen with some degree of interest here this afternoon because there are those who have lectured me without mercy about how addictive gambling is and I'm looking at some of them right now and that you shouldn't