

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, I am signed on this amendment, too. I, too, am very much a supporter myself along with I know any number of us in the state are concerned about the horse racing industry and where it may go in the next four or five years. It is definitely to our advantage to try to retain and to get the better horses and to keep them here. I know in my locality and I don't know what's going to happen to Ak-Sar-Ben, but we are very much concerned about there are only so many gambling dollars available and so many that are going to be spent this year. I do know that the handle was down and the purses at Fonner Park, quite a decline, 8 to 9 percent, but again maybe that's not too bad either in saying we're not throwing in the towel and saying that racing is declining that bad or that the conditions are that bad because in all the general economy has also receded so there are good and bad times, but I would very much support this and this is something that is definitely needed. Fonner Park in my area provides employment for about 500 people and about that many farmers also raise either feed crops, that is the oats or the straw or hay or so for the horses and it's a big entity and I think that it's up to us if we can help it or if we're doing anything for the decline in that business industry to help it or do as we should, and I don't think 2 percent is a lot of money, only asking for part of the proceeds. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. Clerk, amendments on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rod Johnson would move to amend his amendment. Senator, I have the amendment...you know which one I'm referring to. Okay. (Johnson amendment appears on page 2212 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President, this is an amendment to my amendment. It was brought to me by the Nebraska Horse Breeders Association. This amendment would take 25 percent of the 2 percent we're talking about and it would go toward supplement purses that would go toward breeder and stallion awards. This would be for Nebraska-bred horses. By statute, on each racing card each day there is at least one race which is a Nebraska bred horse race. There are only Nebraska-bred horses that can run in that race. This money would go toward supporting basically Nebraska breeders in