

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay. I will now recognize Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I don't think we need to spend a lot of time on the bill itself, as amended by the committee amendment. That's the shape that it's in at this point. I think there's been a thorough discussion of the elements of the bill. Obviously, the tax issue is something that needs to be worked out, needs to be discussed between now and Select File, as has been suggested. I think otherwise I would simply, at this late hour, move for the advancement of LB 1061.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, members, I rise to basically express my reservations about the bill relative to the quarter horse track. Basically, this bill will bring an end to any quarter horse racing ever existing or surviving in this state. I'm not sure that's good public policy, but that is the direction this Legislature has chosen to take with the adoption of the committee amendments. I realize that there are some legitimate things in this bill that address some of the concerns the thoroughbred horse racing industry needs. However, I simply cannot support advancing the bill today based on my personal concerns with the quarter horse tracks and the Small Track Fund, which has been basically gutted and sent to the quarter horse tracks, or the thoroughbred tracks and the Racing Commission. So, just to get it on the record, the reason I will vote against the bill is that aspect of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Will, would you yield to a couple questions, please.

SENATOR WILL: Certainly.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Will, I realize that this, as it's written, is intended to effect only the track...the race track in Omaha. If having this type of an option open is going to be good for horse racing, what would be your objections to removing the population disclaimer so that it would be available to the other race tracks in the state?