

difficult to understand, and what I'm trying to do with my motion is not difficult to understand, what I've said at this point will constitute my opening.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. What Senator Chambers would do is strike the amendment that we adopted on General File to this proposal that basically kept the provisions dealing with the exotic wagering, the portion that went into the fund for purposes of purses, in other words the one-quarter that would have gone to the purse, that award that the owners would receive, those that won the races, it would continue to flow to the...to those individuals. So that portion of the wager that had been set aside, deducted from the total sum, they would still continue to flow to the purses so that the breeders, the owners, those individuals who benefitted from that would continue to have that portion that would be available to them in the form of a purse. Why did we do that? The question is raised by Senator Chambers as trying to basically do away with the small tracks, that is not the case. I would agree with him that the racing industry is in dire straits, but I believe that the racing industry, its roots, its base are those breeders, those owners who run for a couple of different reasons. One, they run for the love of the sport; but, secondly, they run for money. And in order to attract the kind of talent, the kind of horses that will stay in Nebraska and won't go to other places such as California to run, the need is there for the purses to be at a reasonable level. What we did with our amendment is allow for that portion of the exotic wager to still flow to the purses so that there would not be a percentage reduction in the amount because of the...LB 1354. Frankly, that amendment was worked out by those individuals who were impacted by it. It was agreed to, it was not an amendment that was opposed by any segment of the racing industry. And the Chambers amendment to strip that would put us back to a position where frankly the horsemen could no longer support the measure. If you look at the committee statement and see who came in to oppose the bill, the Horsemen's Benevolent Protection Association, the Platte County Ag Society, the Nebraska Thoroughbred Breeders Association, and Atokad Racetrack. By putting back in the provision that would take care of the breeders much of that opposition to the bill went away with the adoption of the Hall-Will amendment after the committee amendments were adopted.