

to E & R for engrossment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: No discussion.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: I erred there, I had my light on, but I didn't get a response here. So what did I do wrong?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Ah...

SENATOR ENGEL: Prior to the engrossment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: We are now on discussion of LB 1354. You may speak.

SENATOR ENGEL: Madam Chairman and members of the body, the reason I want to speak on 1354 is Atokad racing park is in my district, and this last week when these amendments were brought up the information I got from Atokad, they did not have all the information. And the information that was brought down to this body was not all particularly correct. Therefore they have contacted me again, and they would like to have this...they would like to have this bill defeated because the reason in the past, the way I understand it is Ak-Sar-Ben, and the Fonner Park, and Lincoln have a portion of their proceeds from the exotic racing has been helping fund Atokad park for purses, and a portion of it to help the park itself. The reason they need a subsidy is because of their racing dates are overlapped with Ak-Sar-Ben's. Therefore if they could get the racing dates changed, like we offered an amendment last week, Senator Robinson and I, then they would not need this subsidy. But without that they do need that subsidy to exist in Dakota County. Atokad does contribute a lot to Dakota County. Our fair and Dix...our Thurston and Dakota County fair is held there, there are a lot of functions that are held there, a lot of functions locally are held there. It is an asset to the community. And if we would...if we do not get this funding, or do not get the racing dates changed then it will be an economic blow to our area. So therefore I would like to have you folks reconsider this bill and defeat it for this year so we have more time to discuss this, to see what we can come out on a mutual basis. As far as next year maybe we can do something a little