

REMINGTON PARK DESERVES BLAME FOR DEATH OF SIMULCASTING BILL, STANLEY SAYS

From House Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Remington Park race track deserves a large share of the blame for withdrawal of a bill that would have allowed state horse racing tracks to simulcast out-of-state races, according to Rep. Fred Stanley.

Stanley, a Democrat from Madill, held a State Capitol news conference to discuss the bill, shed more light on this controversy and clear up questions about a story on the bill in Wednesday's edition of *The Daily Oklahoman*.

"Remington Park made it absolutely clear to me and just about everyone else that they would withdraw their support from the bill if my amendment was attached," said Stanley. "Remington officials preferred to see the bill withdrawn instead of passed with an amendment that would have prevented them from reducing the number of quarter horse races."

Most Oklahoma horsemen are in the quarter horse business. Further reductions in quarter horse races at Remington Park, the state's largest track, would put a huge dent in the state's horse industry, Stanley said.

"Remington Park has already cut 90 races from their annual quarter horse meet," he said.

"Cutting any more quarter horse races is unacceptable to Oklahoma's horsemen."

"Remington apparently is so adamant about cutting the number of quarter horse races that they would encourage the death of a bill that might have attracted more money to the track. It just does not make sense."

The amendment Stanley was proposing would also have allowed all three Oklahoma horse tracks—Remington Park in Oklahoma City, Fair Meadows in Tulsa, and Blue Ribbon Downs in Sallisaw—to have their races televised to off-track wagering facilities.

Presently, Remington Park will not allow any other track access to monitors in off-track wagering facilities. That violates the spirit of the original agreement among the three state tracks for off-track betting, the lawmaker related.

"This is another good feature to the amendment," Stanley asserted. "All the tracks should have equal access to off-track wagering."

The lawmaker concluded by saying the horse industry is important to the Oklahoma economy.

"There is a lot more at stake here than simply making Remington Park happy," he said. "We have to boost the entire horse industry, from Remington Park all the way down to the regular Oklahomans who depend on the horse industry for their livelihoods."

"If the state's entire horse industry is to continue growing, then passage of this legislation—with the Horseman's Association amendment attached—is vital."

KEATING SPOKESMAN STATEMENT REGARDING OPEA PRESS RELEASE

From The Governor's Office

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Rick Buchanan, Press Secretary for Governor Frank Keating, Wednesday responded to a press release by the Oklahoma Public Employees Association.

"Our lawsuit is about the separation of powers between the Executive Branch of government and the Legislative Branch of government and we are not going to politicize this discussion. It is a constitutional question for the Supreme Court to decide. Out of respect for the judicial process, we will not comment beyond that point. Oral arguments are scheduled to be heard on April 10," said Buchanan.