

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Lindsay is partly right in his comments on the amendment. I did offer this amendment to the Government Committee when I introduced LB 262. The reason I did that is because there was such a ruckus about LB 365, which was the...came to be known as the Ak-Sar-Ben purchase bill. I did that at the time so there was clearly no misunderstanding with regard to what this fund was going to be used for. And at the time that the committee deliberated on LB 262 and advanced it to the floor, they decided that there was no need to adopt this amendment as part of the committee amendments. I clearly had no intention...I drafted this bill months before the Ak-Sar-Ben issue ever came up, and there was no intention, although somehow the two got tied together, as often happens, there was never intention on my part to see this money used. There is not enough money there, it is probably ludicrous to use it as an example, I guess, that that is where the money could go. But under the definition, I guess, that the bill draws it is a possibility, as far-fetched as that possibility might be it is a possibility. Now I don't think that...I think the wisdom of the committee was clear when they said that the amendment was not needed. I'll leave it up to the body. I don't think the amendment is needed, but if the...if it makes a majority of the members feel better about the issue, I will I guess acquiesce to that. But I don't think that there is the need to spell that out. If the desire of the body is to do that, then I guess the amendment should be adopted. But I only agreed to hand the amendment to Senator Lindsay, based on the fact that it was the same amendment that I offered in committee and the committee felt there was no need. So, with that, I would yield the rest of the debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I was involved in that Ak-Sar-Ben debate, unfortunately, during the time that it was...it arose. And listening to Senator Lindsay and Senator Hall I would tend to agree with both of them. I think Senator Hall's correct that the amendment that he agreed to was in conjunction with the other bill, LB 365, which was the Ak-Sar-Ben bill, and I think that is an accurate analysis of what occurred. However, I would agree with Senator Lindsay in that the amendment should be added to this bill so that there will be no misunderstanding or controversy again on the Ak-Sar-Ben issue. And the county's purchase of the Ak-Sar-Ben issue are arising out of this term of the Legislature. As I