

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm going to move...or I'm going to vote for this amendment and in all probability vote to move this bill on. I did support Senator Moore's efforts of last year, the bill that he introduced to provide for a private developer, or private ownership of the race track. And I supported that. I thought it made sense. I thought Senator Moore gave good, valid reasons for it. At that time, there was, I believe, somebody that was interested in buying the Ak-Sar-Ben track. My concern and what I'd like to hear more about as this debate goes on is who are these nonprofit corporations, and are the people of Douglas County really going to have a say in how this track runs, and where is the benefit to the people of Douglas County. Why isn't Douglas County...why isn't the Douglas County Board responsible? Why are there nonprofit corporations in between? Now, there may be some legal reasons, Senator Will, for that, and it would be nice if those could be explained on the record, because my...I know in our city we've had a great deal of concern about this purchase of Ak-Sar-Ben, whether it went too fast, whether the city should have been involved. All of those issues, I think, are out there and need to be discussed in an open forum before the public. And I...I want to see this thing succeed now that it's done, but I want to understand who it is that's running the show, and are they going to be...they're not going to be elected officials. They may be elected officials, I understand some of them are elected officials, but their position...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...on these nonprofit corporate boards does not depend upon their being elected. So that bothers me a little bit, and I'd like to hear more about that as we go along. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE Madam President, members, I rise on this amendment, I guess, to voice two concerns. The first concern is, and it's aimed towards all those people out there that would like to see gambling pay for government services. I mean, we've heard it, whether it's keno on the local level, whether it's lottery on the state level, whatever it is, just an example and a case in point to look at is the history of the horse racing industry and how we, as a state, have taxed that. As a matter of fact, in 1987 the hue and cry that the horse racing industry