

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

was going to end and, unless we exempted them totally from taxation, it was going to fold up and go away. So what...in a matter of years, went from paying, you know, millions of dollars in taxes to the General Fund of the State of Nebraska, the reason that we started horse racing was to help nonprofits and to try and have the state gain some benefit from it. Remember back in '87 they came in and said you have to do this. And we...those of you who were in the body then remember going home and hearing a lot about how come Ak-Sar-Ben gets off not paying any taxes but we still have to pay ours. I remember hearing that, I remember myself supporting Ak-Sar-Ben. Ak-Sar-Ben, to me, I learned about it when I was a kid showing cattle there, so I thought it was a neat deal and I still do. But it's one of those things that '87, give us three years, we'll come back, we'll be good taxpaying citizens. After a couple years, they came back and said, no, boy, three years isn't enough, we still can't make it. We'll start paying a little bit of taxes in '91, '92, '93, whenever the years were; in '94 we'll finally go back to being a good citizen and paying taxes again. So, once we came in and we needed a one-time shot. The second time we came in we needed a little more time. Senator Will, you know, stated they have one more shot to try and make it work. And I understand that, and I understand the problems with the horse racing industry. It's one of those things when you look at gambling, please take a look, you can't count on it for a revenue source to operate things. The other thing is you can wait two or three years, if the lottery bill passes in the State of Nebraska, the keno operations may well not be doing great, and you'll hear the Legislature, please come back and give us money, our city can no longer do these things that we were doing when we had keno there. So it's just a lesson to be learned there that that's eventually probably going to happen in other gambling things, too. And horse racing is a good case in point of what happens when you depend on gambling revenues. We've given them one chance, two chance, now they need a third chance to keep things going. And I don't have a big problem with that, it's just one of those things that it's a little frustrating that...how many chances do you want to give somebody. The second point is that I've read a lot in the paper about Douglas County purchasing Ak-Sar-Ben, about how it will not impact the taxpayers of Douglas County. I think that's a fair representation. My question to Senator Will is, if you'd yield to a question. I know this wasn't his amendment, if you don't understand...if you don't know, I don't know the answer either, and that's why I'm asking. But do you have any idea, if this