

February 18, 1992 LB 1061

trouble, we need a tax break. And every time they've come before the Revenue Committee there has been the votes to give them a tax break. They say this is an agricultural bill. Horse racing helps agriculture. Well, I've checked into that and the hay that we sell for those horses don't amount to very much, folks, they don't amount to very much. Now, as I understand it, Douglas County is going to be in charge. Is this correct, Senator Will?

SENATOR WILL: (Response inaudible.)

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yeah, Douglas County is going to be in charge. I'd like to inform this body that last week we saw a contract signed by the board members of Douglas County. It was a signed contract. They voted on it. They signed it, three years ago, four years ago, they broke the contract. They never did what they said they were going to do in the contract, that's why the folks came before the committee. They said, hey, we need some help, we were promised this money from the Douglas County Board and they aren't giving it to us, here's the contract. Yeah. Oh no, it was fun, that was a fun hearing. I heard that night the Douglas County Board changed their minds and they were going to pay the people their contract money. So what they've done is they come to the Legislature and they say, we can hoodwink that Legislature, we can get them to do things we can't do here at home. So we'll go down there and we'll plead hardship, we'll plead anything and everything to get them to pass a bill. Well, look at your sheet, the committee statement sheet. Opponents, opponents of the bill were Mike Kelley and Robert Lee, the Horsemen's Benevolent Protection Association. But who was for it? Steve McCollister, a member of the county board; Norm Wright, Douglas Racing Corporation; Douglas Racing Corporation, don't know what that is, and R.A. Skochdopole, Governors of Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben. Well, some of those folks on the opponents' list have been before the Revenue Committee and said, we won't be back, we will not be back, we're happy, give us one more crack, one more chance and we'll make horse racing pay. So they say that a question was asked, how are the citizens going to be protected? They say they're going to be protected by the election of the county board. Well, how...how does the citizens or how does anyone fool with a nonprofit corporation? You can't have them audited, you can't do anything because they're a nonprofit organization of the State of Nebraska. So we're going to protect the citizens, but we're going to have a nonprofit organization.