

SENATOR MOORE: No. That's one thing that concerns me as we read a lot about, over the summer and fall, about how Douglas County was going to be able to purchase Ak-Sar-Ben without any taxpayer assistance. There was not a bill introduced to deal with the parimutuel tax. Now all of a sudden on a Select File amendment we have to do this or the whole thing goes...goes down the tubes. I guess my only question is why are we getting blind-sided by this? It's one of those things that time and time again it's been said no...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ..General Fund tax dollars, property tax dollars have to be used and this is all going to work. Now, lo and behold, somewhat later in the session the Legislature is asked to forgive a scheduled tax increase to make this sale work for Douglas County. I guess my only concern was something like this if...why wouldn't it have been foreseen awhile back so we could have gone through the normal process of introducing a bill? It just seems to me, seems to me like it's pretty late in the game after a lot of promises have been made to come in and ask for this sort of preferential treatment for Ak-Sar-Ben on a scheduled tax increase, and for that reason I'd rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I would give Senator Haberman about a half-minute of my time before I start, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam Chairman, Senator Abboud, I wish to apologize to you. There is a part of Ak-Sar-Ben that is agriculture and that is the manure that the horses leave and it's used for fertilizer. Now, I don't know what they're going to do about the fertilizer tax. At 4 dollars a ton, that's not very much manure, 'cause it weighs quite a bit. Those horses are pretty big. And I understand that Ak-Sar-Ben actually pays somebody to haul that away. So I want to apologize to you. There is a part of Ak-Sar-Ben, the horses' manure, that is connected with agriculture. Thank you.