

March 31, 1992

LB 1061

think, when we're talking about spending state dollars to help support a gambling industry. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Before we proceed, I would like to call your attention to the area under the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Labeledz are Sally Smollen and Ruth Blankenship of Omaha. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Chambers, Will and Nelson. Senator Haberman. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I oppose this amendment. Ever since I've been in this Legislature I've opposed efforts, by and large which have been successful anyway, to underwrite Ak-Sar-Ben, which is a failing operation. It was a blue-blood, elitist, exclusionary operation of people who thought they were better than others and as long as they were able to float along making money that was fine. When they started losing money they stopped discriminating against various racial groups. They started offering memberships to people who they had shown contempt for previously in trying to get money. Senator Carpenter and I used to oppose Ak-Sar-Ben together and that, among other reasons, causes me to miss the old gentleman. But when they started in this Legislature giving Ak-Sar-Ben concessions I had said that eventually they're going to come in here to have the state actually subsidize the racetrack. Senator Abboud made some very good comments and I don't know whether that means he's going to support this bad amendment or not, but one of the first rules of economics is that you don't send good money after bad. Ak-Sar-Ben has continued to be a losing proposition and that's why they want to dump it now and the people on the county board who are making the purchase will, in fact, be bailing out some of those people who are holding onto Ak-Sar-Ben. I'd like to ask Senator Will a question, if I may.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Will, doesn't the county intend to issue bonds for the purchase of Ak-Sar-Ben?

SENATOR WILL: They do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are they to be revenue bonds?