

March 31, 1992      LB 1061

SENATOR WILL:    With some other circumstances regarding the use of the property as well, obviously.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    But it is where the government bailed them out?

SENATOR WILL:    The government is taking over a facility that was privately owned, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    And those private owners now don't have to worry about continuing losses?

SENATOR WILL:    Right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:    Thank you, Senator Will, and that is a bailout. You know what, if we were talking about a shelter for the homeless, if we were talking about a shelter for battered spouses, if we were talking about a shelter for abused children, do you think we would be up here talking about the county bailing out these shelters which are performing a very needed service to society? Absolutely not. Everybody would be talking about the obligation to hold down taxes and costs of government. But when it comes to bailing out some elitists, wealthy individuals, we are seriously discussing why it is good state policy to do that. Nobody can point to a positive good that gambling is going to do for society. You don't want your children to go to the track. How in the world are you going to say this is a positive good, but you must keep your children from doing it? Children can go to movies and watch people get their heads blown off their shoulders, watching women get cut six different ways from Sunday, as they say. They can do that, and that is not bad, but they can't go to the track and gamble at this activity which is good and wholesome and of value to society, as we have been told this morning and are being told again this afternoon. I say these things because I like, to the best of my ability, to call into sharp focus what it is we are really doing. We are bailing out some people who have political and economic and social clout. That is what the Legislature is being asked to do. When we were talking about giving people the right to vote on what is going to happen to them, we decided not to give them that right, but we are going to talk loud and long and strong, and the majority of you will probably vote for this bailout. We talked about trying to find a way to restore money to the people of Commonwealth, and it was like trying to pull teeth from a hen. And we, in effect, got nowhere. But the same