

March 31, 1992 LB 1061

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, colleagues. I have a question for Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Schellpeper, would you respond?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes, I would.

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Schellpeper, what LB 1061, in essence, deals with prior to amendments being added was the private running of Ak-Sar-Ben?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: That is right.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay. Would you say that in past years that the operation of Ak-Sar-Ben has been mismanaged?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Yes.

SENATOR ABOUD: Would you say that the private running of Ak-Sar-Ben will result in the handle increasing?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I think it will probably be some more programs that they will try to run. I think their management was not of Midwest breeding that they had before, and did not have the feel of the Midwest racing. And I think with this new management, that they will have some programs to offer to the people in the area, and hopefully they will be able to turn their program around.

SENATOR ABOUD: In the sheet that I handed out earlier, it showed since 1985 their handle has dropped from \$213 million statewide down to \$114 million, and that includes simulcasting that we added a couple of years ago, a few years ago. At that time, I am sure you were a member of the body and we heard the discussions that if we do this, if we give this type of a break, that we will see horse racing turn around, and I guess that is why I am asking, we have had broken promises in the past, and I guess I am asking you if, putting you on the spot here, Senator Schellpeper, do you feel that this handle statewide will go up if we go ahead and allow Ak-Sar-Ben to operate as a private racetrack, with a private racetrack operator?