

March 31, 1992 LB 1061

doing a study on this very subject and rather than to put five on there now, let's look at the Racing Commission, how it operates. Maybe we need seven people on there. We don't really know, but let's look at how they operate and whether three are enough or whether we want five. But with each commissioner you have additional expense, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. But you didn't mind voting an amendment to underwrite an operation that loses over a million dollars a year? In other words, you're very liberal when it comes to big shots losing huge amounts of money and subsidizing them, but then you become very conservative when we talk about putting two more people to guard the chicken house from Colonel Sanders.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Senator, if the study shows that we need five or we need seven, I will support that, but let's do the study first before we put on extra ones. I think it's always best to study problems rather than just to jump in first.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schellpeper, what study can you cite from to justify giving Ak-Sar-Ben that tax break you just voted to give them knowing that they had lost \$1,300,000? What study were you operating from?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I think if you will look at what it will do for the horse racing industry in this state, how important that industry is to this state, that's why I supported the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the fact is there was no study that had been undertaken from which you got your information, was there?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I don't think anybody had even probably thought about having a study on that one tax situation for Ak-Sar-Ben.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so when it comes to an operation losing over a million dollars a year and then getting a tax subsidy, we don't need a study for that, but when it comes to putting two additional people on a commission that is designed to oversee this industry that's so important, we need a study before we can do that? Is that...do I understand you correctly?

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I would also support a study of Ak-Sar-Ben