

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR ABOUD: So, what this would do is take away the private operators of this racetrack, their one means of support would be...would be for their operations, they could not take any of the parimutuel money for their operations?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, that's what the effect of this amendment would be.

SENATOR ABOUD: So, you...you don't support this bill, I take it, at this particular time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Laugh.)

SENATOR ABOUD: You can answer that, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not...not very strongly.

SENATOR ABOUD: (Laugh.) Okay, thank you. Members of the body, I really understand Senator Chambers' seriousness in this particular matter, and we may be getting to a vote here some time down the road. But I think it's important to view this...these particular amendments as a conclusion to the debate on this bill. And in the course of this debate we've examined the horse racing industry and we found that financially that they are in trouble, their handle has consistently dropped year, after year, after year. And there is a concern within Douglas County that maybe this operation may not work. And we're just strictly looking at the numbers. It has consistently dropped year, after year, that handle, down to \$114 million, last year. And maybe this will not work as far as a private operation running Ak-Sar-Ben. Maybe they'll go in there and find a lot of fat in their operation and make this operation turn around. But I think if those handles are dropping, they're not going to be able to make it. And for that reason I don't think it hurts to examine this particular portion of that...of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Anyone else wishing to discuss the amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Chambers, do you wish to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Senator Will, I hate to do this but I