

March 31, 1992 LB 1061

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, if not a lot is bet, it reduces the amount available for purses, do you agree?

SENATOR WILL: Yeah, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If the purses are reduced, people may not run their horses at Ak-Sar-Ben, but at other tracks that pay more, and will just put so-so horses at Ak-Sar-Ben, would you agree?

SENATOR WILL: Yes, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, then if Ak-Sar-Ben has continued to lose money, their handle is going down, they have less money to pay off wagers, they have less money to pay the horse persons. What makes you think that when this person, who is going to run the track for Ak...the county takes over, that all these things are going to be rectified, and there will be more money for purses, more money to pay off the wagers and so forth.

SENATOR WILL: Because this person has an expertise in operating racetracks that I don't, that no one in Douglas County does, that apparently the people at Ak-Sar-Ben have been using to run tracks don't, and he's shown that in other areas, he's taken tracks that are in similar situation to Ak-Sar-Ben and made them much more profitable.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are a couple of these persons...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...aliases Blackstone the Magician and David Copperfield, as far as you know, or Mandrake the Magician, are any of those his aliases?

SENATOR WILL: Not as far as I know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think that's what it would take, in a sense, to turn around what's happening at Ak-Sar-Ben and make it pay money?

SENATOR WILL: I don't know that to be the case. Obviously, Ak-Sar-Ben, at some point, was a very successful operation. I would assume that an individual, through various management methods that I'm not qualified to discuss, could once again get it to a point where it would be a profit-making entity.