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QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN BARRY  
THE LITTLE NYRA BOOK

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# **QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN BARRY THE LITTLE NYRA BOOK**

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## Quotations of Chairman Barry The Little NYRA Book

### On Attacks on NYRA

"It's been like a feeding frenzy. We're an easy target -- a high visibility company that's easy to attack." Washington Post September 2, 2003

### On NYRA Attendance

"We're making headway and I don't think anybody at Belmont would think otherwise. We had a great representation of young people and everybody had a good time. Of course I read all the moribund stories, but we're far from being on our last legs when the Derby can get 150,000 people and the Preakness 100,000. The challenge for us is to put on a great show so we can get 20,000 people on an ordinary Saturday." Washington Post, June 18, 2001

"We're never going to bring it back to what it was, but we can recapture some of that magic. Racing is one of the greatest sports in the world. It's been called the sport of kings for more than 300 years. George Washington raced horses." Women's Wear Daily June 7, 2001

"We've begun to see a difference on the Fridays with the twilight racing, with the crowds, with more young people coming out," New York Times June 3, 2001

### On Belmont Stakes Pricing

"We have a discussion about our pricing every year. I think it's great that we keep it where it is. Fans hate to be gouged, and an awful lot of sporting events do just that, racing included. I think that's awful and I think our fans appreciate what we are doing." New York Times June 7, 2003

### On the State Racing and Wagering Board

"Everyone is harassing us, so I guess they jumped on the bandwagon as well," He said the racing board never had a complaint in the past over the voucher program. Blood-Horse July 31, 2003

"This is state Racing and Wagering Board harassment. Everyone is harassing us, so I guess they just jumped on the bandwagon." Chicago Sun Times July 17, 2003

### On the Pari-Mutuel Clerks

“NYRA had no evidence that any clerks were actually using the policy to commit fraud on their taxes.” Albany Times Union December 12, 2003 quoting Barry from 6/2003

"NYRA accepts and acknowledges responsibility for its involvement in the improper tax deductions taken by its clerks." Albany Times Union December 12, 2003

“We have to worry more about protecting the public than mutuel clerks. If a teller punches the wrong ticket, he's responsible.” Annapolis Capitol December 1, 2002

### On Resolution of the NYRA **Criminal** Case:

“The deferred indictment] was no political favor. We have cooperated fully with the investigation and in making the necessary changes.” Newsday December 12, 2003

“This outcome liberates our new management team to focus its full attention on doing what N.Y.R.A. has historically been famous for: operating the best thoroughbred racing in the world.” NY Times December 12, 2003

“Basically what got us rewarded, if you want to call it a reward, which it is, is cooperating with them. We were not arguing with the facts. “ He called the federal and state probes a "wake-up call for all of us on the board to really be very aware" of the intricacies of NYRA's operations.

“We can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. I honestly believe the pallor over this place permeated to our fan base. Our business stinks. It's like we've been under a black cloud. I believe it's all going to turn around now.” Blood-Horse December 11, 2003

“NYRA will continue to work with federal and state officials to insure that its customers continue to enjoy the highest quality of racing in the country.” Daily News July 27, 2002

### On New York **Fans**

“New York fans showed they are the best in the nation. The enthusiasm of this crowd was spectacular.” Daily News June 6, 2004

### On the New York State Thoroughbred Capital Investment **Fund**

“A joke” Blood-Horse July 17, 2003

### On **Funny** Cide

“I haven't seen a horse capture the hearts of the public like Funny Cide has done in many a year. We live in New York and we only see the reaction here, but I hear it's been everywhere. I mean people are really excited about this horse. I think the greatest thing that could happen to racing over the next few years would be for a horse like Funny Cide to continue to run and compete at a high level.” Albany Times Union August 4, 2003

“Hands down, this is the most exciting Triple Crown run,” New York Post June 8, 2003

### On Michael Hess (Mayor Giuliani’s Corporation Counsel)

Hess “never kept his word through anything throughout this entire process.” New York Post August 12, 2001

“Mike Hess has never kept his word about anything during this entire process, and those of you who have called him know he doesn’t return phone calls. For a government to run a sale like this is a disgrace.” Daily Racing Form August 2, 2001

### On Michael Gill

“He had two trainers race in New York, they both had positives, and he's had a record of his own.” He's not somebody I'm eager to have in New York. It's not about the claiming.” Daily Racing Form August 25, 2004

### On Rudy Giuliani

“It’s really hard to imagine the city would make such a stupid decision. It goes against all the horse players in New York, the horsemen, it goes against the industry and the state.” Daily News, August 3, 2001 similar Las Vegas Review-Journal August 10, 2001 New York Times, August 3, 2001,

“The entire press release is bull...” New York Post, August 3, 2001

The city “has shown a callous disregard for all of us.” Newsday August 3, 2001

“We are obviously disappointed. We can't understand how the city could make such a stupid decision. It goes against the industry, the players and all interested in the welfare of New York racing. It shows callous disregard and it won't be shoved down the throats of the legislature.” Blood-Horse 8/2/2001

“A decision to give this property to the Magna group would be the most ridiculous decision in the history of the city of New York, and everyone knows it.” Philadelphia Inquirer July 13, 2001

### On Jockey Agents Representing More than One Jockey

“I will do everything in my power to fight this. They're not going to run racing in New York - or should I say ruin racing in New York. The rule clearly doesn't work where it is implemented,” AP June 15, 2002, similar Daily News June 16, 2002

“They’re the part of the industry that puts the least amount up. Their contribution is about zero. We’ll see how much stomach they have. They’ve come to the right place if they

want a fight. They're not going to dictate to me how racing is run here." Sports Network June 15, 2002

### On Martin Lieberman (Former NYRA Counsel)

"I wish he was so principled when he was one of the key executives here when all the troubles (at NYRA) started," Blood-Horse September 26, 2004

### On Management

"It's pretty simple, really. The key to running a big organization is to get good people, give them responsibility and let them run with it." Albany Times Union August 23, 2001

### On Maryland Racing

"As Maryland was major league at one time, when I first started playing horses, that is a second-rate, bush-league racetrack today." Annapolis Capital September 1, 2002

### On Tom Meeker

"Tom is running a public company that is interested in the bottom line." Baltimore Sun July 18, 2002

"What he cares about is the bottom line." Fortune October 29, 2001

### On Terry Meyocks

"There are no words that can overstate the esteem with which NYRA, its board of trustees, and the entire racing industry holds NYRA's President, Terry Meyocks. No one who has taken the time to know Terry has ever come away with the impression he is anything other than a person of impeccable character and integrity." Albany Times Union September 30, 2003

### On Kenny Noe

"NYRA is a not-for-profit corporation with a publicly-granted franchise to operate pari-mutuel wagering at racetracks owned by the NYRA. A condition of that public franchise is that NYRA operate the racetracks in a manner that generates reasonable revenue in support of government. Thus, the public has a stake and an interest in any matter that affects NYRA's financial bottom line.

"In approving the compensation package for Mr. Noe, the NYRA trustees made a business decision that his years of service to the racing industry in general and to NYRA

in particular warranted the level of compensation at issue. If the public's representatives in government feel that the compensation package is unwarranted or is excessive, the NYRA trustees will certainly be open to discussing the matter with them." Blood-Horse July 17, 2003

"The NYRA trustees made a business decision that his years of service to the racing industry in general and to NYRA in particular warranted the level of compensation at issue." Thoroughbred Times July 10, 2003

### On James **Odato** (Albany Times Union Reporter)

"You're not welcome here." Albany Times Union August 6, 2003

### On the New York **OTB's**

"Maybe they ought to focus on the expense side of their business if they're having such trouble making a profit." Of NYCOTB, Schwartz said: "It's a well-known fact that it's rather bloated. The last thing we need to do is tax the horse player." Schwartz contends the higher takeout would facilitate rebate shops. "Every time someone has a financial problem in this industry, they tax the horse player. They're going to tax them right out of our racetracks." Blood-Horse March 29, 2004

"I'd like to see NYRA own New York off-track betting facilities...If we owned New York City [OTB], I think all the others virtually would fall into line. We'd eventually own them all. I think that would fit in with the plan we have, and I think I'd like to see some crossover or spillover trickle down from the tremendous crowds that I anticipate getting at Aqueduct to play VLTs converted into horseplayers." Thoroughbred Times July 13, 2003

"I know there's no question NYRA should get OTB. NYRA should own OTB just like every other racetrack elsewhere owns their OTB's." Philadelphia Inquirer July 13, 2001 also Blood-Horse August 8, 2001

"The acquisition of OTB by NYRA is the single biggest issue facing racing in this state." Albany Times Union, October 13, 2000

"It makes absolutely no sense to have two different organizations." New York Times, October 12, 2000

### On Governor **Pataki's** Proposals

2004 Gambling Reforms: "This legislation allows NYRA an opportunity to prove itself as a model corporate citizen," Albany Times Union May 28, 2004

2004 Budget: "We can't seem to get anyone in Albany to change the statute. I guess \$400 million to \$500 million a year isn't important to the governor. 'We're a victim of this, and so is education. They're losing \$400 million a year and it doesn't seem to bother the governor or anyone in the Legislature. It bothers me that NYRA is losing \$40 million, but it doesn't bother them that they're losing \$400 million. I guess it shouldn't bother me.'" Blood-Horse May 13, 2004

2004 Budget: Barry K. Schwartz responded to Gov. George Pataki's 2004 budget as "ridiculous" on trying to balance the budget with gambling. Schwartz was referring to the five VLT/OTB parlors the city would get mentioned in the budget - three in Manhattan, one in Brooklyn and one in Staten Island. "Why stop at just the OTBs? Why don't they put them in the bus stop shelters too. They can probably fit three or four in each one." Daily News January 22, 2004

2003 Budget which limited funds to horsemen from VLT's: Clearly, this does nothing for racing for a very long time. Our main purpose is to run a racetrack, not a casino It's giving to NYRA and taking away from the horsemen." Blood-Horse February 3, 2003

"Under that scenario, we would never do it. I don't believe it was the governor's intention to screw the horsemen. This is going to be worked out. He assured me of that today. If the horsemen wouldn't get anything out of it, I wouldn't build a casino in the first place. Two point five percent is ridiculously low. And the first two years are lower than that. Zero. It's not going to happen." Thoroughbred Times January 3, 2003

"This doesn't work for the horsemen. It might work for NYRA, but NYRA's purpose is to support horsemen. This is too much for the tracks and not enough for them." Daily Racing Form January 29, 2003

### On the NYRA Properties

"This is a no-brainer. If Frank Stronach (the leader of Magna Entertainment) does ever get in here, he's going to have to figure out where to hold his races. He can build a few racetracks." Saratogian April 18, 2004

"No one is using this land besides NYRA,. They'd have to build their own racetracks in order to hold races here." Thoroughbred Times August 23, 2003 also AP Wire 9/17/2003 and NY Post 8/24/2003

### On Racing and Three Ring

"The game will humble you, which is one of the reasons I've always loved it." Inside, March 13, 2002

"It was the worst fatality I have ever seen. I have lost horses before. Anyone in the business loses horses, but I was right there for this. We were standing right next to her. Anything would have been better than how she died. She died a horrific death. If they

hadn't put her down, she probably would have bled to death. There was so much blood in the paddock and she was thrashing around and bleeding.” Albany Times Union, August 1, 1999

“It is like a wake, like sitting shiva.” “Horses are not pets like cats and dogs. They are 1,000 pounds of muscle, best left to professionals. But she was something special, a chestnut filly with a great big white face. I spoke to my trainer about her every day. I am not the kind of owner who shows up on Saturday and people say, 'She's running in the seventh.’” New York Times, June 30, 1999

## On Saratoga

“In my business we call certain stores 'destination resources.' Saratoga has become a destination spot in New York. Everybody planning a trip through the Adirondacks comes through here.” Washington Post August 22, 2002

“Thirty-six days is fine. It's ideal.” Albany Times Union August 15, 2002

I know that (spinners) are like a sacred thing. I would love to be able to figure out a way to do something with the spinner situation. We don't count them as real people because we all know they aren't real people. We had a million paid admissions last year, there is no question about that.” Times Union, June 25, 2002

“A tunnel ... I definitely think it's going to happen; it's just a matter of when. Possibly next year,” Albany Times Union, May 11, 2002

“Everything about Saratoga is wonderful and charming. Would it change it? It probably.”  
On VLT's at Saratoga Washington Post, December 23, 2001

“The construction of something like this would be of such magnitude that it's probably two years away.” He said any extension of the existing clubhouse “would have to fit into exactly what we have here.” Schwartz would not detail how much the project would cost, saying, “right now, it's only a concept.” on a clubhouse renovation at Saratoga New York Post August 9, 2001

“I am no genius, I can't give you an answer why it is so successful. I would rather be at Saratoga than just about any other place in the world. I don't go out to the Hamptons, I don't do what a lot of other people do. To me, this is the best vacation I could take. And I'll be working this year.” Albany Times Union June 26, 2001

## On Saratoga Harness and VLT's

It will impact us because there will be more traffic. Senator Bruno promised they would not operate during NYRA's race day. At first I thought he meant for the six-week period. But that went by the boards and he clarified it, saying he meant from the first race to the

last race. I guess that would help traffic a little bit. Now, I have no idea what is going to happen.” Saratogian April 21, 2004

“Well, I don’t know that we’re really competing against them. They’re not going to be open during our hours of operation... Well, [State Senate Majority Leader Joe] Bruno gave us his assurance that they wouldn’t be, so I believe the senator will stick to that. If they are, I don’t know. People that are interested in an afternoon at the races, can you really see them going for an afternoon to play slot machines? They’re such diverse forms of entertainment. I don’t know if that would really impact us.” Thoroughbred Times July 13, 2003

“At present time the Saratoga Meeting is the premier race meet in the United States. With VLTs located at Saratoga Equine Center this is in jeopardy.” Capital Business Review February 1, 2002

Schwartz said NYRA still opposes VLTs for the Saratoga harness track, and he dismissed claims by pro-VLT forces that the Standardbred track will be forced to close without the devices. "Is that a reason to introduce gambling to a community, because of the interests of one group?" Blood-Horse December 9, 2001

“We're against it because the entire Saratoga community has told me for years they don't want any other form of gambling up there besides racing. I don't think it's a good thing for the community.” Blood-Horse November 5, 2001

### On Eliot Spitzer

“He was satisfied that what NYRA was doing was going to basically alleviate the problems that he saw. And we shook hands and spent an hour talking and basically walked out both satisfied that the attorney general's report is history now.” Thoroughbred Times July 31, 2003

“This clearly has been a witch hunt for the last three years. I am outraged with it. It is filled with inaccuracies, lies and misquotes.” He added: "They've worded so many things in there to give an appearance of wrongdoing. It is all in the spirit of the attorney general looking for sensationalism. What N.Y.R.A. did was all that it could do -- eliminate the opportunity for employees to commit crimes -- and this was done expeditiously and without the need of a report from the attorney general." New York Times June 15, 2003

“It appears to me that after spending an outrageous amount of time and resources for little or no return, the attorney general decided to try and salvage this debacle by using his bully pulpit to attack the credibility and integrity of [Meyocks],” Newsday June 15, 2003

“After three years of wasting God knows how many millions of dollars of NYRA's money and taxpayers' money in this investigation, it was a pretty feeble attempt to justify it by attacking Terry Meyocks ... a man of absolutely impeccable credentials and in my mind, unquestioned integrity.” Newsday June 14, 2003

“The Report is the result of a nearly three-year-long investigation that was bungled by the Attorney General's investigators from the start...The result, after all this voluntary cooperation, is a slanderous Report that is short on truth and long on fiction.” Blood-Horse June 14, 2003

"This was a witch hunt. They kept looking for a smoking gun and they didn't find it. So, in the end they come out with a recommendation we should get rid of Terry Meyocks. It's ridiculous. It's absolutely ridiculous, and anybody in our industry, and certainly people in government, I think know better.” Daily Racing Form June 14, 2003

“The attorney general has issued a report filled with half-truths, misleading inferences, and inaccuracies. Despite the attorney general’s best attempts to discredit NYRA ... the fact remains that NYRA’s current management team is diligent in its operations and consistently one step ahead of would-be criminals who attempt to use the association for their own illicit profits. The report is the result of a nearly three-year long investigation that was bungled by the attorney general’s investigators from the start.” Thoroughbred Times June 14, 2003

### On Frank **Stronach**

“There are a number of areas where we feel we might be able to be helpful to each other. We are continuing to have a dialogue with them.” Daily News May 11, 2004 also Blood-Horse, May 10, 2004

“Our board is not interested in a joint venture,” Blood-Horse March 10, 2004

“He's got Santa Anita and Gulfstream, but he practically ruined Gulfstream this year.” LA Times August 22,2002

"I haven't seen one racetrack that he's improved since he started buying them," Schwartz told the New York Daily News. "It would be a complete and total disaster for him to take over the New York Racing Association.” Knight Ridder August 12, 2002

Stronach has "a lot of good ideas. He just doesn't implement any of them." Sun Sentinel August 5, 2002

"Stronach practically ruined Gulfstream this year.” Palm Beach Post August 2, 2002

"I don't look at Frank Stronach or Magna as any kind of threat to us. We have the best racing in America, clearly. He does have Santa Anita and Gulfstream; he practically ruined Gulfstream this year. Great Lakes Downs doesn't bother me. Flamboro Downs doesn't mean anything to me." He's got a lot of second-rate racetracks. As Maryland was major league at one time, when I first started playing horses, that is a second-rate, bush-league racetrack today...Let's face it. You look at those fields. Andy Beyer has been writing about it for years. He can't stand betting on it. Without simulcasting he would

have nothing. So if he (Stronach) wants to spend \$100 million for that, more power to him. I think one of these days, he's just going to implode." They didn't turn Gulfstream around. They didn't do anything that they said they were going to do at Santa Anita. They haven't done anything anywhere. He keeps talking about, 'We're going to make this an entertainment center.' He owns 10 racetracks. Where are the entertainment centers in any of them? I don't know why Maryland would be the first one. And Maryland probably needs more money spent than any of the others." Blood-Horse 7/24/2002

"He has a lot of ideas. He has a lot of good ideas. He just doesn't implement any of them." Baltimore Sun July 18, 2002

"Frank's view is Frank's view." Baltimore Sun July 18, 2002

"The [television and sponsorship] contracts for the Triple Crown are in place, and the ground rules have been set. I wouldn't think [Stronach] would want to upset what we have. We have no fears." Los Angeles Times, July 16, 2002

"I want to sell racing; I don't want to sell concerts. I think racing can stand alone. You broaden the appeal of the sport by making the racing more attractive."  
New York Times March 25, 2002

"The poor quality of racing at Gulfstream has resulted in a lack of interest in its product, and our customers are not responding. Our dark day simulcasting figures are down 29 percent while on-track and overall business on our live races continues to post significant increases." Pittsburgh Post-Gazette February 3, 2002

"They have horrible racing. Short fields, cheap horses, no depth. But they're still running six days a week, 12 races on weekends, 10 on weekdays. In light of losing 1,000 stalls, who makes those decisions? More isn't necessarily better. It just doesn't make any sense."  
New York Post, February 1, 2002

"I haven't seen one racetrack he's improved." Schwartz added that if Stronach were to take over NYRA, "it would be a complete and colossal disaster." Cleveland Plain Dealer, August 15, 2001

"We've been hearing this hollow rhetoric from Frank Stronach for years. I haven't seen one racetrack he's improved. If Stronach were to take over NYRA, it would be a complete and colossal disaster. The Historical Society would love him." Blood-Horse August 8, 2001

"More of the same old empty rhetoric... Here he goes again with all his empty promises. It's becoming ridiculous, isn't it? NYRA needs an entertainment center. NYRA needs to be a destination spot, he says. Look at all the racetracks he's bought. When is the entertainment center going to be built at Santa Anita? How long has he been saying that? I certainly didn't see an entertainment center last time I was out there." Daily Racing Form August 8, 2001

“I’ll bet anybody at any odds, that Magna group never pays \$260 million in cash up front to the city of New York New York Post, August 3, 2001

Greenwood-Magna “bought every lobbyist that is close to city government.” Newsday August 3, 2001

"We can't afford to spend the hundreds of thousands of dollars that the Stronach group is spending on lobbyists... We're a not-for-profit organization, and we don't have those kinds of resources. We just believe on merit there's no way anybody else could be awarded OTB other than the NYRA." Albany Times Union April 18, 2001

### On Takeout Reductions

On opposing a 2004 bill to increase takeout: “The height of ignorance,” and said that repeated attempts by lawmakers, horsemen, and other racing officials to raise the takeout at NYRA was becoming “the most frustrating part of my job.” “I’ve had it. They don’t understand the takeout, they don’t understand the game, they don’t understand gambling.” Daily Racing Form March 26, 2004

The NYRA chief said OTB corporations look at takeout reduction as a loss. “Ultimately, it will help their business. They just don’t get it.” Blood-Horse February 20, 2004

“I would love to see the win, place and show takeout around 10 percent. I think it would be a huge shot in the arm for the sport.” Cleveland Plain-Dealer September 3, 2003

“I know it's going to work. It's just a question of how fast it will work and how much. The last [takeout reduction] was over 20 years ago and that generated a 15 percent increase in handle.” Daily Racing Form July 23, 2003

“Absolutely [happy with the results] We’re several hundred million dollars ahead in handle since the inception. We’ve returned close to \$70-million to the players. That money gets recycled. That money churns. It’s been proven.” Thoroughbred Times July 13, 2003

On a 2003 Takeout Request “Even the OTB (corporations), if they had any brains, can't complain about this one.” Barry Schwartz, lashed out at the decision to defer the takeout request. “We assumed this was a no-brainer,” He said the issue clearly shows that “OTBs don’t understand the gambling business.” Blood-Horse June 25, 2003

"I have always believed that lower takeout is good for both the fans and those of us who benefit from the handle. And what we have done now is make the lowest takeout in the nation even lower. It's a win-win situation for all involved." NY Times June 25, 2003

“I think of everything that's happened since I've taken office, and this is the one thing that I'm most proud of.” Albany Times Union July 28,2002

“I couldn't believe in anything more. This is the right thing to do. This is the right way to do business. It's common sense.” Thoroughbred Times 3/28/2001

### On Donald **Trump**

“He's a sleazebag and everybody knows it,” Thoroughbred Times July 12, 2003

### On **Video Lottery Terminals**

“I had always been against them. We were basically forced into a position of having to have slot machines. I hate many of these forms of gambling. I think the lottery preys on people who can least afford it. But, at the end of the day, what other options did we have?” New York Times, January 28, 2004

“I'm not a big believer in slot machines or casinos, and in a perfect world, I'd like to not see slots at our racetracks,” Buffalo News August 26, 2001

“VLT's In a perfect world, I would not be in favor of them. But now other racetracks have significantly increased purses through slot machines and VLT's, and NYRA needs to remain competitive. We had 700 empty stalls this winter, the most ever, and shippers are way down at this meet. Horses can go to other tracks and get purses almost as good. We used to be miles ahead, but no longer. We have to be there again.” New York Post, August 9, 2001

“Saratoga Race Course would not be an appropriate location for video lottery terminals. NYRA supports the Saratoga community's desire not to change the Saratoga experience with VLTs.” New York Post August 9, 2001