

buildings and upkeep of state owned buildings, Mr. Cudaback, Senator Cudaback and myself decided that what we should do is put it in 4-H and the FFA, more money there and let the State Fair then use their own funds to try to maintain state buildings as much as what they can. So that's what's actually happening out there. Every other state puts money into state fairgrounds, several million dollars. The surrounding states around us all put in a lot of money. They fund premiums. They fund buildings. Iowa is currently under a \$30 million building project on their state fairgrounds. A lot of it is funded by Iowa, the taxpayers. So the taxpayers of this state are getting a very good deal if all they are funding currently is 4-H and FFA premiums. So I think this is a program that the state needs to become more involved in. It goes to the youth. It goes to a program that is very worthwhile. If the funds from the State Fair have to go to maintain other programs, the 4-H and FFA will have to suffer or they'll have to pay premiums or pay entry fees in order to get in. There has to be enough money there to pay all of the expenses. Horse racing no longer will fund the entire State Fair operations that it has in the past. So I would oppose the Lindsay amendment. We're only talking about \$154,000. I know it's only but we have to save a lot more money than that if we're going to balance this budget. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein followed by Senator Robak, Robinson, Schrock, Lindsay, Cudaback, and Jones.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate speaking. I appreciate Senator Lindsay's interest in this. This is a very nominal amount. We...I believe we had \$40,000 in for this area before and this is an increase from that as a result of a bill from Senator Cudaback. Part of the committee's thinking, I think I can speak for the whole committee on this, is that as we come through and we've spent several million dollars on the crime issue and reacting to juvenile crime and this type of thing that this was an appropriate place to put some money in for a positive reason--that of supporting the State Fair via this amount, via this program will go to youth. It is a form of supporting the State Fair. The only money that the State of Nebraska puts in the State Fair at this time, there is fairground support, but not running the State Fair as Senator Schellpeper said. But the thought was that this is a positive approach and this is a program...FFA and 4-H is open to anyone statewide, city, rural, wherever you live. It is simply a matter of initiative to do it. Many schools have it as a