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FLOOR DEBATE

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where we are now after three years, I think it will be a convenient point to say, hmm, that blush of energy that we put into the process in the year 2000 and 2001 has had a fair chance to bring success and a turnaround, and it hasn't. So I regard this as saying, look, here's a tool for the State Fair to try to use to come back, if you will, but it is limited and, frankly, I will be looking at the life of LB 72, with its three-year time line, as the life of the second chance or this continuing opportunity. Because if we don't have growth and success in those three years, I'll go back to my original view, which is this asset should probably be returned to the private sector, because I think its highest and best use on the edge of the university and the commercial district of Lincoln, proximate to Cornhusker Highway, is probably in the private sector.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: But I could be wrong. And we've committed to this and I'll let it...I'll give it a chance. I'll help with a new tool here, but it's a timed tool, and it seems to me that when this tool exhausts itself we will be able to evaluate and make a final conclusion as to what we want to do with the State Fair. And that's the basis upon which I am supporting, first, the Connealy amendment, and, secondly, the advancement of LB 72 without other damaging amendments to it.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I certainly concur with the words that have been spoken by my good friend Senator Landis. I think he has the same thoughts that I've had all the way along. With the new leadership, with the new enthusiasm that's developed around the State Fair, I expect it to be successful. I would concur that if it's not, then maybe we need to take another look. But I support the amendment that Senator Connealy put up simply because if there...I don't...we did not intend to have to draw on General Fund funds in order to finance this particular idea. I think that there's a good possibility that enough funds can be raised,