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FLOOR DEBATE

February 4, 2003 LB 72

record.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Connealy's amendment.

SPEAKER BROMM: The amendment is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is not a good bill. What it attempts to do is not good policy. I read some comments that Senator Redfield had made and I think she was absolutely right. If this is going to be done, I can look at a headline in this morning's paper about the amount of money that the public schools in Omaha are going to have to cut, and I would like to use this bill as a vehicle to allow any person who wants to checkoff some money on a return for the Omaha Public Schools, earmarked for the purchase of textbooks, and I think that is far more valid, if something like this is to be done, than what is being proposed here. The State Fair might take people back on a journey through those nostalgic days, which probably never were as people remember them now, but even if they were, this is a different time. Circumstances facing the state are different and the taxing system should not be utilized to support a moribund operation. The only thing lacking, with reference to the State Fair, is a decent or, at any rate, hasty burial. I can understand what Senator Vrtiska has said, I can understand what he's trying to do, but that doesn't mean I have to agree with the methodology he is selecting for that purpose. If there have been all kinds of donations to the Game and Parks Commission, people have donated land to the state, why cannot that same approach be taken with reference to the State Fair if there is a genuine statewide interest in doing this? I understand very well that people can argue the checkoff as being an voluntary activity, but put in the context of how those forms, how that process is to be used, would indicate that we should have a much higher priority than the State Fair before we make use of the system and the process