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FLOOR DEBATE

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government, and our education system as it is in the state of Nebraska, or else you're going to dismantle the thing. So somewhere along the line, we got to decide if we're going to pay for it or not. And by doing it such as this...and if anybody has looked forward to Mark Quandahl's amendments, I think there are some in there that bear some serious study. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Wehrbein, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I just wanted to remind the body a little bit about what this 1 cent was for, and why it is in there. There's...the Antelope Valley Project, which I don't have all the information at my fingertips, but it...there's lots of information on this, was done because of a serious potential flooding problem in downtown Lincoln, or...and out toward the State Fair grounds and on the University of Nebraska campus. So part of the reason, in fact, in my mind, most of the reason that this money is dedicated there, is because there is a very strong interest by the University of Nebraska and the State Fair grounds for an improvement in this so-called Antelope Valley Project. There's roadways, flood control, many things like that. And so a lot of this, in essence, is for the University and the State Fair grounds' protection. And it's not...in other words, it doesn't just accrue to the city of Lincoln. The NRD has lots of money in it. I think, if my memory is right, it's a \$225 million project. So at the time this was done a few years ago, and I'm speaking from memory, many of us felt that it was an obligation of the state to keep up their part of the commitment, because of our interest in this particular area. If you recall Devaney...is a...a railroad...there's a railroad crossing issue. They are access...so there's a combination of factors here that...here in this kind of debate, you're never really fully prepared to delineate all the issues that were involved in this. It's rather complicated. Actually, the same can be said as we get...if Senator Quandahl goes through with his amendment, there will be a lot to be said on that particular issue. Most of us over time, I think, don't really like the earmark idea, but that's what happens. The cigarette tax, I believe, is the most heavily earmarked revenue source we have. In fact, it may be