

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 4, 2004

LR 209

The New York Times Book Review said about this book, a deeply satisfying account of the political world from which the United States Constitution issued. And here is a comment that begins on page 329 and continues to 330: Federalists lampooned one of the amendments proposed by the minority in the Pennsylvania convention which would have affirmed that Americans would retain the "liberty" to fowl and hunt in seasonable times and on lands they hold, and in like manner, to fish in all navigable waters and others not private property without being restrained by Congress. Nearly transported by laughter at this clause, Noah Webster proposed a further restriction, "that Congress shall never restrain any inhabitant of America from eating and drinking at seasonable times or prevent his lying on his left side in a long winter's night or even on his back when he is fatigued by lying on his right." You see how silly this kind of thing was deemed to be many, many years ago, when the U.S. Constitution was being written. But people have a tendency to forget. They obliterate the guideposts. They forget from whence things came. And that which is supposed to be of great value is cheapened and mixed with base metal. To talk about putting something like the State Fair into the constitution is like spreading manure on Shakespeare's works. I heard what Senator...what one of the senators said earlier. Speak no name and bear no blame. But I think it is preposterous to send good money after bad. Senator Landis told you, money from horse racing, losing; money from this, losing; money from that, losing. You have a dead, a you have a moribund corpse on your hands. You're not going to resuscitate it. But if you can fabricate, through attaching some artificial devices, an appearance of life, you're going to have to keep infusing, infusing, infusing. The only reason this thing got out of committee, I believe, is because Walt Radcliffe was pulling the strings. This is an unworthy piece of legislation. This Legislature should not demean the constitution by putting something like a State Fair into the constitution. This is 2004. This state is considered a hick state already. How many things am I going to have to save...

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...this Legislature from? Hunting, fishing,