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FLOOR DEBATE

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from the state to a private entity to give prizes to those who were going to be attending the State Fair. I've talked to people who recently have been to the State Fair, and they said that it just isn't the way it was a number of years ago. The primary thing at the State Fair now are vendors. And it's just lost its interest. The population...

SENATOR VRTISKA: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...that are attending there, I understand it was down like 19 percent last year. And we've given it two years under a new regime. The LB 309 committee has been diligent in trying to help repair some of the buildings out there. Why are they having to do that? They are...the State Fair has been using those buildings out there without paying anything for them and without repairing them. And so they had money during the time of the horse races. They never put any of that money materially back into these buildings. And we got tired on the 309 committee of pumping up these buildings that the State Fair was not maintaining. And it just struck me that if we were going to be in charge of that, we should be...it should be a state entity. Well, that didn't happen. It reconstituted. It's now got a board. But the only way they can go is to get \$2 million more each year, and that won't do it. That won't repair the structures. That...and you can leverage that, you can do all of these things,...

SENATOR VRTISKA: Time.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...but the answer is we don't have enough people attending for a reason. Thank you.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Erdman, on the bracket motion.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, Senator Vrtiska. Members of the Legislature, I was one of the members of the General Affairs Committee that did vote this amendment out of committee. And part of the reason why I did it was because this is an issue that I think we can discuss. We've discussed other issues this session, so why not do them all? Here's what I was