

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

March 5, 2004

LR 209

and I appreciate your allowing me the opportunity. Maybe I've overthought about this overnight, but I want to give you my perspective. Advance LR 209CA. We're on General File. The people have elected us to lead, let's take charge. I thank Senator Chambers for the way he is proceeding with regard to this bill. I'd thank anybody else who is doing the same thing that Senator Chambers has established that he could do, but he's indicated the bracket motion for his discussion, he's going to honor a commitment to pull it. I'd urge Senator Landis to accept that commitment in the spirit in which it's given. I thank Senator Landis for disabusing us of the concept that somehow we have preserved here in the heartland of America the most perfectly written, most wonderful document, called the constitution, because it isn't true. I mean, I...some of you have been, on probably both sides of the issue, have been talking about how we didn't quite get it real right, and precise, and legal, and we didn't really know what we were doing, and we don't really know where we are, and we don't know what would happen if somebody took on I-300 and we put that in the constitution. There are...the Attorney General is all concerned, whether he should be or not, about the fact we put the Defense of Marriage Act in and that might fall, and so now we have to go put it in the federal constitution. So I appreciate Senator Landis elucidating the fact that we really don't need to be so worried about that document because if it's trashed it's been trashed for quite some time. And more important than a piece of paper and a document is the involvement of the people. And the way I was brought to this, it's not because I'm any expert on the State Fair by any means or anything else, but I was intrigued by the concept that we are at the moment, Senator Foley said yesterday, a very, very difficult moment. Some of us have been saying that for some time, trying to do some new and creative things, not wanting to be hidebound to the time-honored tradition of we do it the way we've always done it and we don't want any change. We are at a very difficult moment. Senator Stuhr, Senator Peder...Don Pederson captured the sense of where we are. This is about agriculture and agriculture has been and is still number one. That's both a glorifying statement and a concern. Agriculture is still number one. The State Fair is about agriculture. Traditions are important. Senator Beutler is right. I am