

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

March 5, 2004

LR 209

a lesser scale, if that's what it takes, and hopefully it can attract people. I was struck also by what Senator Mines said. If I quote you right, you said you'd taken your kids there for nine years and they hated every moment of it. Is that accurate, Senator Mines? And I appreciate your trying. I mean this is a positive as well as a negative, what you said. I would hope that young people would want to go to the State Fair if it was properly run and properly included, and get the education they need. The ground water display, for example, there's lots of opportunities to do that in a fun and entertaining manner, and I...that's the way I've long seen the State Fair. One of the most valuable things, however, I think, is the people you see there of common interest. And so it's this intangible thing that I guess I'm talking about and I'm having a hard time defining it. But to me, this, if this goes on the ballot, which I think is the proper way, and if the people of Nebraska want to abandon that, so be it. But I think we all ought to examine ourselves somewhat in terms of our history and our culture and decide if we really want to let that go away. One of the reasons I've been a strong supporter of NETV, by the way, is because I believe it's one of the few things that's able to bring this state together. And the World-Herald probably is as close to a statewide newspaper as we're going to have, but even it doesn't touch every corner. But NETV has served to do that, and to a large degree I think this Nebraska State Fair, the Historical Society, and some of those very things are the things that bind this state together. And if I had to rank some of those, I think the State Fair, if it doesn't, should and could be one of those things that really binds this state together, and where you come together for understanding, and you can go next door and go to a football game, or go next door and go to a basketball game. All of these things I think are important. They are very hard to define. I'm not doing a very good job of doing that, but I believe we ought not to let go of something like this that easily. And I think this approach helps define that, helps make it an approach that we can at least assess if we, as Nebraskans, want to let the State Fair go; one, probably the first one out of all the states...

SPEAKER BROMM: Time.