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LR 209

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...I'm not sure there's 49, but thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Don Pederson would move to bracket the resolution until April 15, 2004.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Pederson, Senator Don Pederson, you're recognized to open on your bracket.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had spoken with Senator Chambers yesterday about his bracket motion and asked him if he was going to bring it to a vote, and he said he was not. He said he'd previously given his word to Senator Landis that he would not do that and I was, frankly, hoping that we could come up with a vote on that issue. But being a person of his word, Senator Chambers said he did not want to change that again. He was not going to back up on his word to Senator Landis. I do this, filing a bracket motion, with much mixed emotion. I know that there are strong feelings in the state and in this Legislature about the State Fair. I think it's the State Fair as they want to remember the State Fair. I think it's the State Fair as they would like it to be, but it's not the State Fair that is. And I think that we need to face that issue. I'm very concerned, candidly, about 23 days left in this legislative session and the tremendous problems that we have facing us that I think need full attention. I know Senator Brashear has said, what's wrong with going ahead and passing this on General File, and then we can treat this issue during the next two rounds of discussion or debate. We don't have that kind of time. This is an important issue to many people, but not that many, in my opinion. That's reflected by the diminishing attendance at the State Fair. There was quite a comprehensive article that had been written in the World Herald a number of months ago about the attendance at the State Fair. And the plain fact is that although Senator Beutler would like to consider this a statewide unifying event, it isn't. The central part, the western part of the state is simply not coming to this. The...there is a diminishing number of people in the eastern part of the state that are coming. I said yesterday this is an event looking for a purpose. They are still trying