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SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Thompson, you have 4 minutes and 53 seconds.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you very much. What's being passed out to you now are some excerpts from the State Fair Board minutes, and just started looking into this, this afternoon, so this is some new information that I thought might be helpful to your decision making on this amendment. And I think it gets into some more detail about the whole premium issue and how this has transpired into a legislative proposal. The first comments come from the September 2003 minutes, and they say: "Mr. Johnson spoke about the message perceived by livestock exhibitors when premiums were suspended for the 2003 Fair." And I point this out because, in thinking back to the Appropriations Committee, the only thing I ever heard was the livestock exhibitors, not necessarily all the other classes of people who were competing at the fair. This seemed to be the complaint: "The premium amount all together is a large amount, but when broken down into individual premiums it is not substantial. So it was not necessarily the economic impact to each exhibitor, but the perceived negative message received by some exhibitors that was realized. Peetz offered a reminder that the suspension of premiums was temporary, and that premium structure as a whole will be studied and reformatted for greater parity among the departments." Peetz also added input from the associations in attendance regarding the premium situation as valued, and it goes on to talk about what they were going to do in terms of discussions and restructuring of the premiums and so forth. Then we move to the October 2003 minutes and there's more talk about the sponsors and finding third parties, and they talk about the need to look for sponsors for premiums--4-H, FFA first, then open class. And Lloyd reported that Rasmussen and Rod Hollman have begun to work on that endeavor. Then we go to the January meeting and in January they talk about the fact that they have been working on that and had been meeting with a group in December regarding the funding of the premiums. But then they talk about...now the Governor is going to ask for the money in the budget. And by February 2004, there's no mention of these other efforts to restructure the premiums, to work on whomever they were meeting with in December for premiums, because now it says: Forster asked the status of any possible