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FLOOR DEBATE

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funding for fair premiums from the state, and Lloyd responded that the funding request is in front of the Appropriations Committee and he is optimistic the vote will come out with a recommendation for approval. And this is what happens when we keep being the fallback position. I can remember years...the first year I was on the Appropriations Committee with a different group of people, it was a different senator saying, why aren't you going out and getting sponsorship for these various aspects of the fair; why not get sponsorship for the premiums from the big corporations that might have an interest in this aspect of the industry? And it's not going to happen as long as we continue to bail them out, because they can run down to the Legislature, they have a foundation, they can get a lobbyist to come and help, and they continue to ask us for this money. It's kind of like the kid that keeps asking you for money and every time you give it you think, well, that's the last time, but as long as you keep doing it, why would a child ever learn any different? I don't think it's a whole lot different with adults. So I just wanted to cite this. If you want to read these excerpts yourself, they have been passed out by a Page. But as long as this whole issue of the premium issue and how it contributed to the fair, it's really only one sector, according to their own minutes, and it's the livestock exhibitors.

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: And they talked about restructuring, making the premiums a little more favorable in that particular group; talked about finding people to sponsor those premiums. And then the minute there's a chance to come back and ask for tax money to do it, here they are. I think it's time to say...look at the plan that you had in September, see it through, and make the changes. But don't lay it at the Legislature's feet that the fair is going down the tubes because we aren't giving premium money for children and adults. I want to remind you, this money is not only for children's premiums. It's for adult premiums. And the people who process and work through these premiums, this is not totally what we're talking about here. We need to say at this point there are higher priorities in the budget. It was nice when we had the money to do that. We don't have the money