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FLOOR DEBATE

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haven't seen 7 percent in a long time. In fact, if you average out the last ten years, it comes in at less than 5 percent. And that 2-point differential means another \$100 million of red ink. So the \$296 million deficit might be closer to \$400 million deficit. And what are we doing? We're writing a constitutional amendment to lock in an appropriation to the State Fair. They don't have to come to the Appropriations Committee anymore. Theirs is taken care of. It's in the State Constitution if this thing passes. I voted against this CA on first round, and I heard about it. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce e-mailed me, called me, said, what are you doing, Foley? This is good for Lincoln. I know it's good for Lincoln. But that's not the test. The test is, is it good public policy to write a constitutional amendment guaranteeing an appropriation to the State Fair when we're \$300 million or maybe \$400 million in deficit the next biennium. I need to be convinced of that. You might win my vote, but you haven't done it yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I have a problem with this amendment, AM3376, I think. And part of the trouble is, I don't think we should be locking some type of revenue in there into the State Constitution where we can't pull it out without some kind of a huge vote and promotion to get it out. The Environmental Trust enjoys quite a lot of money at the present time. Over the past few years, they've put a lot of money out that I would question if that was where it was supposed to go. And when we lock it in that it has to be spent for environment and that sort of thing, I don't think that's quite right. I think the Legislature should still hold the purse strings to some of that money. There have been nearly 3 million bucks spent on the rainwater basin, which is probably all right. But there's times when enough probably gets to be enough. How many no-till drills are we going to buy for people, or for Pheasants Forever in the state of Nebraska? There's a lot of these things that I question whether they need to be overhauled and looked at. I don't think we should just nail this into the constitution, or chisel it in stone that they're going to be the ones to receive the money forever for whatever purposes. I'm sure Lincoln would