

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 24, 2004 LR 209

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bourne would move to amend with FA1601. (Legislative Journal page 1247.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I don't know if this amendment will meet with support from anyone or not. But I'll give you a little bit of the history. Back in 2001, if you remember, Senator...I believe it was Senator Beutler, had a bill that took some cigarette tax money that was expiring, it went to a particular project, I can't recall which. The money was expiring. And he, Senator Beutler, had a bill that put some money into Lincoln's infrastructure and some money into Omaha's infrastructure. And at the time, those of you who can remember, Senator Wickersham was sitting over here, and he called Omaha's project mud flats, and Lincoln's project the...something. I can't remember, and we...the ditch. One was the ditch, and the other was the mud flats. And I initially was not supportive of rerouting that cigarette tax money. And I thought about it and thought about it, and finally I thought, well, if the city of Omaha wants to share in that increased revenue, then they're going to have to pony up and do some things to the infrastructure in my area. And I had added an amendment that said that before the city of Omaha could access any of that additional cigarette tax monies, they had to spend at least \$7 million each calendar year on a sewer separation project for those homes east of 77nd Street. I thought, if the city was going to get a windfall through the cigarette tax money, that they should have to, rather than build new infrastructure, they should make a commitment to maintaining existing infrastructure. And as I'm sitting here listening to the debate, both on General File and on Select File, the same thought as it relates to the fair came to my mind. And I thought, if I'm going to support LR 209CA, then perhaps the city of Lincoln or the community in which the fair is located should pony up a little bit--no pun intended--but should also contribute. And so that's my thought. So what my floor amendment does is, on page 2, in...I'm going to read the entire paragraph, starting in line 14: "Ten percent of the money remaining after the payment of prizes and operating expenses and the initial transfer to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund