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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But I do think that we need to put our emphasis on the fair and what the future of the fair can be if we, in fact, are willing to provide some of the funding and some of the energy that it takes to make it successful. With that, Mr. President, I thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Louden, on the Bourne amendment, FA1601.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I agree, there's been a State Fair since way before the turn of the century, in the early 1800s, or whenever it was, 1890s, I guess, somewhere along in there. And it was something that everybody in the state would usually buy for, bring...you'd bring animals, bring produce, bring different kinds of needlework and everything else down to the State Fair. And of course there was prize money to be had, and there was a certain amount of prestige of taking something to a State Fair and winning. That's all changed. As I look at some of the State Fair stuff, last year they had, what, 283,000 people or so attended the State Fair. I can remember 50-some years ago when I went to the State Fair they talked about having 300,000 on a Labor Day weekend. This is what's happened to our State Fair. It isn't a question about whether we should or shouldn't have a State Fair. The question is, is how are we going to fund it and who are we going to have do the funding. Who are we going to have operate the State Fair? Do they actually need that money, or has it been so mismanaged for so long that it's nearly on its death bed. And somewhere along the line, these are the questions that have to be answered. Just standing and throwing money at it isn't going to solve the problem. Once you have this amount of money, if it's voted in for them, then the next thing they want, what, \$33 million or so to rebuild some of the buildings down in that area. The land is probably too valuable to keep using it as a racetrack. The racetrack has to be rebuilt. My understanding is it's too small. So I think the whole idea of the State Fair should be...should either be studied this summer, find out whether there are better places to