

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 24, 2004      LR 209

have the State Fair, find out if there's somebody else that wants it right now. It seems like to me the idea of having this...what this is all about is that...is there's some local folks who want to get into the Environmental Trust money to run their State Fair for the next several years. This isn't the way State Fairs operate. State Fairs run on their own...on their own reputation. State Fairs should be a place where people can go and get new ideas. They learn things. There's trade shows that you can take back with you to use on your operation, whether you're farm ranching or running a business in other parts of the areas. There should be home shows in there. Those are all gone from the State Fair now. If you bring animals to the State Fair, you can't hardly get in and out of there. Probably the reason the State Fair was located down next to the railroad tracks is because that was probably where the stockyards was back in those days, who knows, and that was all the transportation in was by State Fair. There haven't been horse trailers in...only in about the last 40 years or so that would...you could haul cattle or livestock of any kind any distance. So this is something that you got to remember that times have changed. I think we have to look at this as another type of industry. This is something that can be taken care of. There's certainly a lot of attraction, tourist attraction. But right now my observation is that the way the State Fair is set up now you just as well have a...pass a law that you can serve beer and have a pig roast down there, because that's what it's getting down to, is having singers and some kind of entertainment that you're competing with, and you're competing against some of the larger facilities around that have soft seats in their all-weather facilities. They've tried to keep the simulcast horse racing down there. You're back into gambling. Go ahead and vote your gambling in. Put a casino down there if that's what you want to do with that property. Probably make more money in a month's time than you've made in the lasts 15 years down there.

SENATOR JANSSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR JANSSEN: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: This is something that has to be considered. I