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FLOOR DEBATE

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sincerely to Senator Wehrbein and to Senator Vrtiska, I can feel your pain, I share your pain. But I'm also a State Senator, not here just to be sympathetic because somebody is feeling pangs of regret at the passing of something that has been around for over 100 years and they simply cannot accept the idea that it is not eternal. It is not everlasting. All things come to an end. Even I shall come to an end. And I hope that when I croak people don't cry but, rather, tell a joke. That is what would make me feel good. And if they don't tell a joke, although I'll be cremated, I'll roll over in my grave. I meant that's just to try to make that point. Since the amendment I'm offering is not difficult to be understood, I'm going to discuss some other aspects of what it is we're doing. Do you see how difficult it is to put together language to accomplish what people are talking about? And, remember, this will go into the constitution. You cannot come back next session and have a meeting at Senator Bourne's desk, Senator Landis' desk, Senator Beutler's desk and say we made a mistake, let's change this, and we say okay. Lincoln no longer is interested in coming up with the 10 percent match because they don't want it here. So if they're not going to give the match, either this money is going to be given to them without the match being made, or the fair has got to go, and they'll have to take up and move. And where is it going to come down? Nobody knows for sure. It's like that little ball on the roulette wheel. There is not serious thought being given to the consequences of putting something like this into the statute. I have criticized the plundering of various funds, but I am not so blind to the vagaries of fiscal problems that can befall a state that I would say never should the state be allowed to dip into these other funds and address a crisis which overshadows whatever purpose those individual funds may exist for. The existence of the state itself is more important than any of these little appendages, any of the agencies, any of the departments. And when I say department, I don't mean the branches such as the judiciary, executive, and legislative. We could have such a fiscal crisis that we would have to gather money from every fund available. We might have to raise various taxes. And who can say that will never happen? It doesn't make sense especially when right now, while we're doing this, we see how critical times can be for the state in terms of the money that it will have, the money it's going to