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March 30, 2004 LB 1089
 LR 209

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Would there be...and I'm thinking here, to give you some context. In the area of schools, for example, we're directing lottery money back to the General Fund, as you well know, education lottery money. We've had to basically stop a number of programs, ongoing programs in schools, so on. In some instances, there's a possibility for another entity to pick this up. So for example, in the case of prize money for State Fair, would there be a foundation or some business group that may be a possibility for providing this sort of funding?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm sure there are. That is one of the multifaceted efforts the State Fair Board is making, is to seek foundation help from others. And they've created their own foundation, which is just now really getting off the ground well. But I mean, I think that's where they would like to head, so that there is broader support and it won't be so dependent upon tax funds.

SENATOR RAIKES: But probably it would be the case, if the Legislature decided to pay this money, that the efforts to get it from a private group of some sort would probably stop.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it would certainly be discouraging. I mean, if the state of Nebraska is not behind its State Fair, it's hard to get other people enthused.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. So that's a point I hoped you would raise. Is this really an issue of funding a particular function, namely, prizes at the State Fair, or is this some sort of an endorsement by the Legislature of the State Fair?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, I would think LR 209CA is an endorsement of the State Fair. I don't know whether this is an endorsement or not, directly. It's something that we have done mostly, I can't say every year, but for 150 years. The Nebraska State Fair has been part of Nebraska's history. And it's had some state funding one way or the other, I would say, most of those years. Admittedly, horse racing money was a lot of it back in the forties, fifties, sixties, seventies, and eighties,