

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

March 30, 2004      LB 1089

in many ways, several years back when he talked about the fact that the State Fair is really sort of a hybrid, and nobody knows who it really belongs to. And I have always been of the opinion, at least in recent years, that we should consider making the State Fair a state agency, much like we did with the Historical Society a number of years back. It's...they're kind of in no-man's land, and it's a very difficult place to be. And I think that maybe someday we ought to look at that perspective, or a different way of dealing with it. But anyway, I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Pederson. I know he's got his light on, but I'm not sure how far down the line he is. Senator Pederson.

SPEAKER BROMM:      Senator Pederson, you have 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON:      Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. And thank you, Senator Schimek. We're sort of on the same side, Senator Schimek. And I do appreciate your acknowledging the fact that once in a while I get something, in your opinion, that's right. But I've been concerned, not about the kids in this respect. I don't think there's anybody here on the floor that won't do anything that they can for the children of this state. My problem with the State Fair has always been structural. And I was concerned about the fact that we have state land, state buildings, and the State Fair was using those, and they were supposed to be repairing them, they were supposed to be paying for the use of those buildings, and never happened. And I think that they shortchanged the program themselves. I'm very sorry to hear that Pat Lloyd is leaving. I think that the best ray of hope that the State Fair had had was Pat Lloyd's efforts. I think he had perhaps some kinds of, in my opinion, a little overoptimistic view of what could happen, but he at least was going in the right direction. But I'm still concerned about the fair. I was interested in hearing what Senator Thompson had to say the other day when she was saying somebody had suggested, in the Appropriations Committee, that they ought to start getting their funding for these premiums from some other source. I was the one that asked that. And then she read the minutes of the meeting of the State Fair Board, which went along, first, with the idea, well, let's get started with that, and then they