

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

April 6, 2004

LR 209

Chambers amendment as it's currently written. I just don't...the fact is that we've got nine amendments filed when we've been on this 14.5 hours. I'm ready to vote. I hope you are as well.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just wanted to stand in support of the overall concept. I do support Senator Bourne's amendment. I wanted to speak a little bit about the importance of the State Fair in regards to the county fairs. And I don't know how many of you have had children involved in 4-H, but 4-H is the backbone of our county fairs and is also the stepping stone for our state fairs. And I wanted to share some information with you that Nebraska is one of the top two states in the nation in terms of youth reached through 4-H. Nebraska 4-H reaches 22 percent of all young people, and 25 percent of minority youth. We have...in 2003, Nebraska 4-H reached nearly 120,000 youths, and that represents nearly 27 percent of the eligible Nebraska youth of 4-H age. Youth from every county in Nebraska participate in 4-H. And I think this is one of the things that people often think that 4-H is all rural, but most young people touched by 4-H live in cities of 50,000 or more. I think those are some interesting facts. Nearly 70,000 youth participated in 4-H school enrichment, so besides our traditional 4-H clubs, we have school enrichment activities that are sometimes carried over then to participation in the fairs. We also have overnight camps and day camps. In 2003, more than 3,000 youth participated in overnight camps. We have the 4-H program and then we also have the thousands of volunteers, 10,000 volunteers, that work in this program. This is the backbone of, of course, of these programs, are these caring and responsible adults and teens who work with these young people. And when people...and when these young people are involved in 4-H, they are learning many skills, skills and values that they will take for the rest of their life and carry through. It does make a difference. I'm sure some of you have been 4-H volunteer leaders. Some of you have probably been members. But the point that I want to really emphasize is that our county fairs are growing, they are at least in my district, and they look forward to taking these achievements and