

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

April 7, 2004

LB 1090

says what you're saying is supposed to relate directly to the question before us. And Senator Chambers interrupted his commentary to say, by the way, anyone who wants to shut me up better be prepared to go all the way. And that phrase tripped in my mind this morning because you said something similar this morning, Senator. And I wasn't sure what he meant but I kept visiting and the Clerk said, well, yeah, we do have this rule. So we go to visit with Doug Kristensen, the Speaker at the time who was in the Chair. And those of you who knew Speaker Kristensen, you remember the grin that he had. You know, he gave me the grin. Yes, Senator Maxwell, that is what the rule says. Let's keep reading. His point was, how do we enforce this rule, and when you work your way through the rules, really the only option is you would have to expel a member. You would have to kick someone out to really enforce the rule. And so I quickly became educated. Try, Senator Chambers said, you'd have to try to expel somebody. Senator Kristensen said this is day 40 of a 60-day session. We haven't even gotten to the budget yet. I'm really not interested in the circus it would entail if we tried to do something like that. So I realized we have probably an unenforceable rule there, but I just thought I'd point that out. One other matter I'll mention, and that'll be it for me, is I just want to remind you. Senator Chambers, you talked about education funding and so forth. I was the one member of the Education Committee a couple of years ago who voted against taking education lottery funds and throwing them into the General Fund because we were in trouble at the time, fiscally. Not that I necessarily thought it was a bad idea but this proposal, this lottery, was sold to the public as something that would benefit education and the environment. It was not sold to the public as a backstop for the General Fund, so that's why I voted against that transfer at that time. My contention on the State Fair resolution is this. I don't really have a guiding passion on it, but if we're going to add a third component to the mix, then I think we have to go to the people through the ballot to do that. As I say, this was sold to the public as something to fund education and the environment. If we're going to stick the State Fair in there, then I think we're obligated to go back to the ballot, ask the people for permission to do that, to cut the State Fair in for 10 percent. I don't really have a guiding passion on it, but I think we need