

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

April 14, 2004 LR 209

state's history when philosopher statespersons are needed, this is that time. But instead of giving the public those people of vision who can lay out before the public, our constituents, what we think about this document known as the constitution and how it ought to be handled, we don't get that. What we get are rubes, I guess you could say, obsessing over the State Fair, obsessing over the State Fair. Everybody knows that it's on its way out. There can be no rational justification for lawmakers to put a proposition on the ballot which would damage that document, a proposition which by its terms goes contrary to all wise lawmaking. So let me tell you what this first item is. That was by way of introduction so I will not have to repeat that although that will be the thrust of what I'm talking about. On page 3 in line 10 after the word "Fund" and this is with reference to the Final Reading copy for the sake of the record, if you look on page 3 in line 10, you will see reference to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund. This is what I would have tried to persuade my colleagues to adopt had I been given the opportunity the other day. After the word "Fund" this is what I would want to see accompany this constitutional language: "If the Legislature determines that a greater percentage of lottery proceeds should be transferred to the Compulsive Gamblers Assistance Fund, the amount of such percentage shall be deducted on a pro rata basis from both the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund and education, each of which otherwise shall receive the percentage of such proceeds as specified herein." With the allocation of this lottery money, a limit is placed on what can go into this Compulsive Gamblers Fund. The casino measure will be on the ballot. Contrary to what those who support it will say, I believe there are going to be more people turning up with the problem of compulsive gambling. If you put a limit on the amount of money that can come from lottery funds into that fund, I think it is a mistake. So while this bill is dealing with lottery funds, it is ignoring the problems that will accompany it. In every way on every front, this is a bad thing to do. If I were just talking to Senator Cudaback trying to reason with him, you know what I would tell him? I'd say, now, Senator Cudaback, the lottery is Satan's pottery. It should not go into the constitution. Think about what is being done with this language that will be in LR 209CA should it become a part of the constitution. And the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee