

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

April 14, 2004      LR 209

appropriate measure for us to put forward to the people of the state of Nebraska. I clearly heard Senator Chambers' clarion call for a Vice Chairman to say something. I'm saying something. For at least two years, I have been concerned and have introduced legislation to correct matters as far as the State Fair is concerned. It's a private enterprise. It's not a state agency, and yet we are treating it like in the same category as public education and as our environment. I'm very concerned that we have had this measure come before us and I'd say why do we have this proposal coming before us? There's one really good reason why it's here today and that is because the State Fair was not making it on its own. So in order to raise money since it wasn't able to do it on its own, they say, okay, let's have a constitutional amendment that requires that money be spent for the State Fair so it will have the opportunity to carry on. I think that's not the way that our constitution should be used in any respect. I agree totally with what Senator Chambers is saying. If this had been a bill before us to give \$2 million annually to the State Fair, then I think that's an appropriate measure for us to be considering. But this is kind of a sneaky way of doing it actually. This is putting it on the same par as education and the compulsive gambling and the other measures contained in the current measure of the constitution. I don't think it reaches the same status as education or the environment or the compulsive gambling. Why do we have a compulsive gambling provision in there? That's because when we went into a state lottery we knew that there would be people that would become addicted to it and we should provide funds for those people that are so addicted, and that's an appropriate use of the money because we started the ball rolling. I think we have an obligation at that point to provide help for those people that are addicted to that enterprise. But I'm very concerned that our state constitution be put in this position of having to put the State Fair as a measure for our constitution. It doesn't rise to that level, and I think we should be more careful about the use of our constitutional authority. I would really urge you to consider very carefully about this use of our right to put a measure before the public. I don't think it's appropriate for us to propose and to submit to the public a constitutional amendment to provide guaranteed money to keep the State Fair going. I think if it can't go on