

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

April 14, 2004 LR 209

and hopefully at some point will be directed to education has instead been directed to the General Fund. And I don't think that was a betrayal of public trust. Some others may disagree with me, but I think a clear and careful look at that suggests that that is the thing that should have been done, given the financial circumstances we faced. My big issue with this is not even so much as to whether or not it makes sense to dump \$2 million into the State Fair. I have extreme doubts as to whether it will work. But if you want to do that, introduce a bill, introduce a bill and direct money out of the lottery to the State Fair for a year if you like or for two years. But do it that way and see how it works. Give yourself some flexibility. Don't throw away the authority that the Legislature now has to direct the use of these lottery monies, I would argue, in the best interest of the people of the state of Nebraska. And that's what this does. It's really in my view in that sense far more damaging than just a State Fair provision. It goes on to prescribe in such a way that the financial discretion of the Legislature is limited. And that just seems to me to be a totally unwise proposition so I will continue to oppose this. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I feel it's my obligation to speak up and explain why I cannot support putting LR 209CA on the ballot that would ultimately protect some users of state funds more than any other state agency. I have worked in defense or actually in support of the compulsive gambler situation in trying to bring about more dollars through state statute. I'm beginning to think that those users of those funds should go through the regular appropriations process. I think there's more scrutiny given there, but that's a debate for another day. But I just have reservations, and I have to be honest and say that putting this on the ballot that would ultimately lead to the most protection of dollars as long as the lottery is around, and there's evidence to show that that's withering on the vine anyway, so it might go away on its own. But I can't support using the paper to print the decision on when I believe we have higher priorities, issues that are far more important and we all know what those are. I don't need to