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FLOOR DEBATE

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that Environmental Trust Act as they existed January 1 of this year. And once again, would be the language "This provision is self-executing." Now I will bet you that the environmental trust people wish that such language as this would accompany this provision if it winds up in the constitution, and I certainly hope it does not. But they are not knowledgeable enough or they are not strong enough, forceful enough to protect their turf in the way that the State Fair Board is having its turf protected. I have to recapitulate now. Priorities are what we certainly should be looking at the next to the last day of the Legislature. This provision, LR 209CA, should not be the crowning act of the Legislature on this next to the last day. It should not garner 30 votes. On Final Reading it's the same as a roll call vote whether we take a roll call vote or not because every name is listed and the way the person whose name it is voted. The State Fair Board is not worthy of being placed in the constitution, guaranteed \$2 million, no strings attached. I know that my talk of leadership has fallen on deaf ears this session. You know when I fight the hardest, when the odds are the longest. You all don't see me cut and run even when I suffer defeat after defeat after defeat. I'm still here. I continue to battle. I can lose in the morning and I continue to fight the rest of the day. And I'm not a legislative leader, but maybe I could be an example of what a leader ought to be. You don't see me fold before special interest groups of any kind and say that what is really in the best interest of the state I'm going to lay aside because I've got a sentimental feeling. You know what I have done. I have stood on this floor and I'll use the word ranted, ranted against increasing the sales tax; all but swore that I would not increase the cigarette tax or vote to continue in place an increase that had been made later. And you know what I wound up doing, contrary to what I stated in both of those instances because I became persuaded that the welfare of the state was at stake and I had to submerge my personal distaste for increasing the sales tax, my abhorrence for increasing or maintaining an increase in the cigarette tax, and I did what I believed was appropriate for me to do as a state senator. And I acknowledged that even when that vote is criticized. I have not voted to clutter the constitution. I have not voted to demean the constitution. I have not tried to buck to the public a responsibility of mine and say I'll put it