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FLOOR DEBATE

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been spent in my legislative district and in a lot of rural Nebraska, to protect wetlands and to protect water issues, and I think it's been very beneficially spent. When you stop and realize that 97 percent of the state, the property in this state is owned by private landowners, most of this money is going to private landowners to enhance the environment. A lot of this is for migratory birds, for water enhancement issues. It's done the irrigators in this state a lot of good. And we're just saying, let's go through the competitive grant process. Now I can tell you that the university this year wanted some money for the low-level waste, to clean up at Mead, and I think they would have got it if they would have gone through the competitive grant process, but they didn't. And I don't disagree with what the Appropriations Committee did then. That's a tough decision. What are we going to do about cleaning up the waste at Mead? But I think the university, if they'd have gone through the grant process, probably would have gotten it. Certainly, the Governor was in favor of that, and most of those people are appointed by the...well, they're all appointed by the Governor. But a lot of those people on there have now been appointed by Governor Heineman. If he wanted the Environmental Trust Board to do that, I think he could have made it known, and they would have granted his wishes, anyway. This is a straightforward amendment. I am looking forward to discussion on it. I'm going to be rather quiet, and I'm not going to push my button again, but I want to see how the debate goes, and we'll proceed from there. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on the Schrock amendment. Open for discussion. There were a number of lights on. If you wish to address the Schrock amendment, you may, or you may waive. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm not going to extract my pound of flesh, other than by saying that in the past I've mentioned that people listen to me, but they don't hear me. I had talked about the problem that would happen to this compulsive gambling fund, gamblers' fund, and to the Environmental Trust, but everybody was so eager to get their hands in this money that Senator Landis was able to tell us--and