

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

April 3, 2006

LR 259

gets short, that Environmental Trust is going to be decimated. Is that what you want to happen? I don't think so. That's not what I want to happen. But like I said, the natural resources in this state, we don't get the respect that a lot of things get. And like I said, woe is me as education. Well, they get half of our budget, and they deserve it. But take a look at what our natural resources get, what the Environmental Trust gets and spends. It's not very much. And if we don't take care of our environment, why, we've got...then it's kind of a sad state of affairs. And you know...and Senator Fischer makes a good statement. Our farmers are pretty good stewards of the land, anymore. We've done a great job. A lot has changed since...in my lifetime, when it comes to farming. So we've made a lot of progress there. But I've appreciated what the Environmental Trust has done. I...they've been to my district. I've helped them hand out money for projects. And every one of those projects, I think, was worthwhile and enhances the quality of life in the state of Nebraska. So just a few simple facts, folks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, neither Senator Bourne, Senator Fischer, Senator Raikes, or anybody else who raised issues about education can show where anything in a specific bill at the time this amendment was adopted for distributing these lottery funds, there was no specific bill that had been enacted to show the public which specific education programs would be funded by this money. Fuzzy thinking, the inability to keep similar things compared with similar things, does pose a problem. Education is such a vague, general term that I'm the only one who will talk about, on a consistent basis, the discrimination against nonwhite students. That is not something that others on this floor talk about. But justice in terms of providing educational opportunity should be uppermost in our minds when we talk about aid to education. What these senators are talking about is aid to school systems. They're not talking about the children. If they were, they would speak, like I do, about schools in Omaha where they have inadequate textbooks. That hurts our children.