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FLOOR DEBATE

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the fact that the State Fair is here, it is working, it provides an avenue for young people with...that are in 4-H and FFA. And you...we get a little complacent in our thoughts and we don't realize what's happening down here with our fair. It's a big thing to a lot of people. We don't go as often as we should. We're all guilty of that. And the 309 committee has pumped a lot of money into the fair in recent years. But sticking with the committee amendments, I believe the committee amendments are the right way to go. You use those three years to determine if this is making a difference. We can always come back and change that. We can reintroduce the bill again after 2005. A lot of us won't be here. But I believe that you're going to see a dramatic increase in the funds from this, via the checkoff. So I believe three years is fine. The committee amendments will work out all right. And I am sure that Senator Vrtiska is amenable to that. It's a good tester. So with that, I will support the committee amendments and the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I too stand in support of the amendment and also the bill. Last year we did do some major revisions to the State Fair Board, which I think have proved to be very beneficial in bringing a new board together. I believe there are now seven districts across the state, and four appointed members by the Governor. I believe...and I can't say any more, that the State Fair does bring communities together, it does bring people together, it does bring our state together. I just wish we could find more funding to help. I applaud Senator Vrtiska for bringing this bill to have this additional money to go towards the foundation. We have a couple buildings on the fairgrounds, the industrial arts building, built in 1913. Let me tell you, if any of you have been there at the fair when it's 100 degrees, it is not very pleasant. Also the 4-H building. I've had children that have brought articles to the fair. Every time, everybody holds their breath when it rains. The roof leaks. All of the projects have to be covered, in fear that they're going to be destroyed. We need some new funding to go into some of these projects. So hopefully this will be one way that we can turn this fair around and really make it a grand event for