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career has spanned four decades and includes service with the U. S. Forest Service, the Georgia Extension Service, and 22 years as Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission. I would like to present Mr. A. Ray Shirley to you this morning. Mr. Shirley, please.

MR. A. RAY SHIRLEY: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, it is a real honor to be here with you. I have worked in state government now for a number of years, for some 22½ years as Director of the Forestry Commission in my state. I am very familiar of the busy schedule that you have here because I have been working with the government, both legislative bodies, and you are unique with only one but we do have something in common with you in Georgia with you in Nebraska and that is we must live within our income. We cannot spend funds we do not collect in any given time and so I understand that you are in the same way and are only one of two other states in the nation. I think it is a good rule. I wish our federal government had this same rule. Your state like mine and my region, the southeastern part of the United States, is dependent upon the soil for the livelihood primarily of our people. We have soil and water which is very prominent but we must have grasses and trees and other things to conserve our soil so that we may have a good livelihood in my state. We are fortunate that the federal government and state government combined only own 7½% of our land area and we have some 25½ million acres in forest so you know why forest is important to my state and to all of the southeast. I have been highly honored to come and receive the J. Sterling Morton award. I am still amazed that a man that did so much for your state and for the nation, yes, for the international, as your late J. Sterling Morton and so it is a real pleasure for me to come and meet with you this morning and just to say thank you for letting me come into your state. I appreciate so much Senator Carsten and you taking this moment out of your schedule and I am not going to say anymore except I hope that you will come and visit with us. We have a lot of things in common. Our people are friendly. We have many members of both sexes in our House of Representatives and in our Senate and so I feel really at home here this morning. Thank you a lot for letting me come.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Shirley, and while we are at it, why don't we recognize Mrs. Ray Shirley along with Mr. and Mrs. Mike Ferrill with Ruth Carsten under the South balcony. So welcome them also. We also have guests of Senator Beyer who are in the North balcony. They are 31 fourth grade students from Hill-rise Elementary in Elkhorn, Nebraska, and their teachers are Mrs. Pfeil and Mrs. Adamson. Would you please stand